

# City of Columbus

## Parks & Recreation Department

### **Master Plan**

**2007-2011**



## **COLUMBUS PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

### **MASTER PLAN 2007 - 2011**

Fred L. Armstrong, Mayor

City Council Members

August Tindell

Martha Myers

Ann DeVore

Rob Kittle

Jim Lienhoop

George Dutro

Jesse Brand

Columbus Parks and Recreation Board

Brian Russell, President; Term expires 12-31-08

Ryan Brand, Vice President; Term expires 12-31-09

Amy Macy, Secretary; Term expires 12-31-10

Jerry Littrell, Member; Term expires 12-31-07

Rob Kittle, Council Liaison; Term expires 12-31-07

Charles W. Wilt, Jr., Director of Parks and Recreation

Columbus Parks and Recreation Board Address

Columbus Parks and Recreation Board

P.O. Box 858

Columbus, IN 47202-0858

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## **2007 - 2011 MASTER PLAN UPDATE**

### **City of Columbus**

#### **Forward**

The last master plan for the Columbus Parks and Recreation Department(CPRD) covered the years from 1999 through 2003. This master plan is intended to re-establish the direction for local parks and recreation efforts for the next five years (2007 - 2011). Since the last master plan was completed, several years ago, there have already been many changes. Our population profile is shifting, and our definition of leisure is changing. The State of Indiana requires that a local body update their parks master plan every five years to remain eligible for federal land water conservation funds. Although it is important to maintain the department's funding eligibility, it is even more important for the local agency to keep up-to-date with community issues.

#### **Executive Summary**

#### **Department Information**

##### **Columbus Parks and Recreation Department**

P.O. Box 858  
Columbus, Indiana 47202

#### **Park Board members and contact information**

Brian Russell, President; Term expires 12-31-08  
Russell Development Co.  
726 Washington Street  
Columbus, IN 47201

Ryan Brand, Vice President; Term expires 12-31-09  
Brands, Inc.  
1425 California Street  
Columbus, IN 47201

Amy Macy, Secretary; Term expires 12-31-10  
1225 S US 31  
Columbus, IN 47201

Jerry Littrell, Member; Term expires 12-31-07  
3860 Briar Hill Way  
Columbus, IN 47203

Rob Kittle, Council Liaison; Term expires 12-31-07  
3355 Paddington Drive  
Columbus, IN 47203

Charles W. Wilt, Jr., CPRP, Director of Parks and Recreation

Primary contact:

P.O. Box 858

Columbus, IN 47202

812-376-2680

### **Definition of planning area**

The planning area for the CPRD is, for all intents and purposes the corporate boundary of the City of Columbus. The department recognizes the need to be open to all possibilities and therefore works with the Bartholomew County Park Board, Columbus Regional Hospital, Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation, and other agencies whose boundaries extend beyond the corporate limits of the City of Columbus. (Appendix – A)

Additionally, the department is open to exploring property donations that are beyond the boundaries of the corporate limits.

The CPRD also recognizes the importance of tourism development and economic development and is open to exploring those opportunities that extend beyond the corporate boundaries. This may include the extension of a trail system from Columbus to Nashville and to the surrounding Bartholomew County Parks.

### **Description of Park and Recreation Board**

The CPRD is overseen by the Parks and Recreation Board. The Board was established by the Columbus City Council on February 3, 1947. The Board is organized under the General Park and Recreation Law, Indiana Code 36-10-3. The Park Board consists of four members, two Republicans and two Democrats, who are appointed by the Mayor. The current Board provides a diverse interest in parks and recreation.

Park Board meetings are held the second Thursday of each month, 4:00pm at Donner Center. The meetings are open to the public. The Parks and Recreation Department intends that all meetings, programs and facilities be accessible to all members of the community, including those with special needs. If anyone requires special accommodations to attend or participate in a department activity, they may call the administrative office at least 48 hours prior to the special need.

### **Description of Park and Recreation Staff**

Operation and management of the parks and recreation department are the responsibility of the Director of Parks and Recreation, who is appointed by the members of the Parks and Recreation Board. The director's position is equivalent to that of a department head, and as such is accountable through the Park Board to the Mayor and Common Council of Columbus. (See organizational chart, Appendix - B). At the present time the Parks and

Recreation Department employs 56 full-time staff and part-time staff ranges from approximately 25 in the winter to approximately 250 in the summer.

The Park and Recreation staff is nearly as diverse as the population it serves. Ages range from 21 to 64 for the full time staff. 37 are male and 19 are female. Each staff member also brings a very diverse background and special interests.

### **Department History**

The board was established by the Columbus City Council on February 3, 1947. The first meeting was held in April of 1947 to elect officers and discuss property to be donated and "...the recreational problems with which the City was confronted." The first property donated was Donner Park and Wieser Playground. Since that time the property has been consolidated and is now known as Donner Park and is the location of the Donner Aquatic Center.

Since its inception, the CPRD has grown to 28 separate properties, 700 acres, and a very diverse palette of recreation opportunities.

### **Department Structure**

The CPRD is committed to providing service to the community. This is reflected in their vision statement, adopted in 2004 and reiterated below:

#### **The CPRD**

- Is recognized on a local, state and national basis for providing the highest quality programs and facilities.
- Has a well trained, friendly and professional staff that is proud to serve the community.
- Anticipates and is responsive to the changing needs and desires of our community.
- Is an active participant in a community-wide program successfully promoting healthy lifestyles and wise leisure choices.
- Is identified as the clearinghouse in Columbus and Bartholomew County for fun activities for children and families.
- Is a major partner in tourism and economic development through the development of park amenities that host and attract visitors to regional and national sports and cultural events.

CPRD also stresses quality in their Mission Statement, also adopted in 2004:

#### **"Enriching lives ... Building Community"**

This quality based vision is intended as a guide for the department, reflects a committed service provider, willing to try non-traditional methods and programs in order to obtain

better results. CPRD has evolved into a somewhat flat hierarchical top down structure. (See organizational chart, Appendix – B) This structure will be evaluated over the course of the next 2-3 years.

### **Department Budgeting Process**

The practice of management by objectives was continued in the past five years by the department, with the intent that its managers would operate under a business approach. This has been carried through to the budget process, requiring managers to initiate creative methods to get a job done while staying within budget. When managers think like a consultant or owner, they maximize resources which are currently available. Management by objectives has been a significant accomplishment which brought the department's goals closer to the budget process.

As a city department, Parks and Recreation's annual operating budget is subject to approval by the Common Council. Capital improvements are subject to the city's Capital Improvements Program and Budget, which establishes a five-year program for capital expenditures by all city government departments. This program helps to coordinate spending by all elements of city government. Projects are rated according to criteria established by the Capital Improvements Committee, as well as through a "fine-tuning" of project ranking in accordance with special circumstances that are unique to specific projects. A five-year capital improvement budget is prepared each year, thus allowing for adjustment of priorities, as well as, consideration of contingencies which may arise from one year to the next. (See CIP Budget – Appendix J)

The Parks and Recreation Department's annual budget is composed of both an operating budget and a capital improvement budget. The parks department may also utilize the city's bonding capacity in order to finance projects. The last time this bonding capacity was used was in 1997, when a \$4,000,000 bond was floated in order to renovate and expand Donner Aquatic Center, renovate Lincoln Softball Complex, renovate the irrigation system at Greenbelt Golf Course, and develop a new Park Operations Service Center. Currently the department is paying off those bonds and will have them paid in 2017.

The approved operating budget has increased from \$2,235,913 in 1998 to \$4,255,417 in 2006. The average annual increase in the operating budget has been 7%.

The amount of money spent on capital projects has fluctuated greatly from year to year during the last several years. In 1998, \$334,000 was appropriated and in 2006, \$997,500 was appropriated. The reality is that CPRD has and maintains approximately \$73,000,000 worth of property and facilities. The overall average annual increase during the period 1998-2006 was 14.2%.

The budget depends very strongly on revenues, which are discussed below. Revenues for the parks and recreation department's annual budget come from two primary sources:

- a. Taxes



b. User Fees

The parks and recreation department has its own tax rate independent of the general fund tax rate. Due to the increase in assessed valuation from reassessment and annexation, the tax rate decreased from its level in 1998 as tax revenue has increased during the last five years.

The goal of the Park Board over the last several years has been to increase the number of programs and facilities to be as self-sufficient as possible (i.e., golf, gymnastics, aquatics, and the ice arena). In other words, user fees should cover facility or program operating expenses. Through the use of revenues and non-reverting operating and capital funds, those activities that are self-sufficient can become independent of tax revenues for their continuous operation. This enables tax revenues to be targeted for facilities which, for whatever reason, cannot operate on a self-sufficient basis.

At the **Par-3 golf course**, the number of rounds played in 1998 was 20,660 compared to 12,695 in 2006. At **Greenbelt golf course**, the number of rounds played in 1998 was 26,456 compared with 21,602 in 2006. (Appendix - F – 2002-2006) The golf division has operated at a deficit for the last nine years.

The CPRD has operated the **Columbus Gymnastics Center** since November 1987. In January 1999 the Columbus Gymnastics Center reopened at a new facility located at the Foundation for Youth. The center has operated with the goal that fees generated from the program would pay expenses. Since reopening, the number of participants has varied substantially due to increased competition, staff changes and economic downturn and therefore, has operated at a deficit. (See Appendix - G)

In 1998, the Donner Pool re-opened as the **Donner Aquatic Center** after a \$1.5 million dollar renovation and expansion. Attendance and revenue has fluctuated with the weather, as well as other factors. (Attendance - Appendix - G)

**Hamilton Center** has focused on programming and efficient scheduling to increase self-sufficiency. An additional Assistant Manager was added in 2006 to assist with promotion and management of the arena. Hamilton Center has operated at a deficit over the past five years. (See Appendix – G)

In general, it is difficult to predict revenues for these facilities with great precision because of a number of variables, including weather, fees, schedule changes and competition from other leisure activities.

**Services**

The Parks and Recreation Department currently offers an excellent diversity of programs. Offerings are not restricted to athletic programs, but include a variety of activities and programs which can be divided into six categories:

a. Sports and Fitness

- b. Summer Children's Programs
- c. Crafts and Performing Arts
- d. Special Populations
- e. Teen Activities
- f. Cooperative Community Activities and Special Events

Sports and fitness programs are primarily oriented toward active physical participation and organized athletics including such typical active offerings as youth baseball, soccer, basketball, tennis and softball. Summer programs emphasize playground activity programs, recreational pre-school, day camps and outdoor plays and concerts. The department provides opportunities for adults and children to participate in theatrical events. In 2006 the department partnered with the Columbus Area Arts Council to provide support for Mill Race Players summer production, Oklahoma. An adapted aquatic program is offered for special populations during the summer. The department is committed to offering a variety of programs for teenagers. In addition, the department sponsors or co-sponsors a variety of community wide activities and special events with other local organizations including a Easter Egg Hunt, Park Variety Shows, Country in the Park and the Halloween Parade.

In addition to programming, the department boasts a variety of parks. Currently the department operates six community parks, seven neighborhood parks, one of which is undeveloped, four mini-parks, six special use areas (including two landscaped areas, two golf courses, and two indoor facilities) and one linear park (People Trails).

## Community Information

### Natural Features

Columbus (see natural features map – Appendix - C) includes three main water bodies (Flat Rock River, Clifty Creek and Haw Creek). The major land area of the city is defined by these three water bodies. The Flatrock River effectively forms a natural boundary on the west side of the city, and Clifty Creek serves a similar function in East Columbus. Haw Creek cuts through the approximate center of the city at a slight northeast to southwest diagonal. In the past, these water bodies have steered growth in the northeasterly direction, causing the downtown to become less centrally located but this has now changed with significant development west of I-65. Columbus and Bartholomew County are relatively flat, with the exception of the western portion of the county which is quite hilly. Several existing parks take advantage of water resources. Noblitt Park and Mill Race Park, which has a public access fishing site, are located on the Flat Rock River. Clifty Creek separates Clifty Park from Amberly Park, and Hawcreek runs through Greenbelt Golf Course, Lincoln Park and Everroad Park. These three river corridors have potential for passive recreation. Although there is development along much of the southern portion of Haw Creek, these river corridors will largely remain undeveloped because the surrounding land is within the floodway and floods annually to semi-annually. The river corridors have provided great opportunities and challenges for trail development. Acquisition of land or easements for development in areas not publicly owned can sometimes be difficult. Trails developed along existing rights of way and through existing parks and other public lands are not impeded by acquisition costs and legal requirements. The periodic flooding that occurs in these riverine areas increases design and maintenance costs as well as creates silting problems. Trails that are frequently under water or damaged have little value to the community.

The trail on the Haw Creek corridor was developed in 2005 on land that was mainly city owned (Greenbelt, Lincoln and Everroad Parks) along with areas owned by an institutional facility (Columbus Regional Hospital) and a single corporation (Cummins).

Parks within the city contain relatively flat topography, as does the rest of the city. As would be expected, the most severe slopes are located adjacent to the rivers and creeks of the community. Most of the remaining undeveloped land outside of the floodplain is typically clear of vegetation, flat to gentle sloping, and used for agriculture. The majority of this vacant land is located in the north, north central and northeast parts of the community. Most of the undeveloped land located outside of platted industrial subdivisions will likely be developed for residential purposes. At the time of development, parkland could be donated to the city for mini-parks and/or small neighborhood parks. This was done in the Tipton Lakes area and McCullough's Run. As development continues in the Tipton Lakes area, additional parkland may be donated to the city. Because this area has the most interesting terrain within the city, it is important for the parks department to obtain parkland in Tipton Lakes. Without developer contributions, it is unlikely that much parkland would be obtained in this area because of

the high costs. Land costs are a major factor hindering the acquisition of parkland throughout the remainder of the city, so it will continue to be important to obtain donated parkland from developers in order to satisfy park and open space needs.

### **Man Made Features**

Despite its industrial base, Columbus retains the image of a residential community.

Interstate 65 provides the City of Columbus with access to Indianapolis to the north and Louisville to the south. U.S. 31 also provides the city with access to Indianapolis to the north and Louisville to the south. S.R. 46 is an east-west road that provides the city access to I-70 at Terre Haute via Brown County and Bloomington and I-74 at Greensburg which leads to Cincinnati.

An interesting element of land use in Columbus is the existence of more than 70 individual buildings designed by internationally famous architects. These buildings include churches, schools, industries, City Hall, the county jail, and the parks and recreation's indoor ice skating facility - Hamilton Center and the Par 3 Golf Clubhouse. The city's architecture attracts thousands of people each year and helps to make Columbus a physically distinctive community.

The Columbus Parks and Recreation Department has access to several facilities for recreation use. Donner Center, where the park and recreation offices are located is one of the main facilities owned by the department. Hamilton Center, the ice skating facility at Lincoln Park is another important facility. The parks department uses other municipal facilities such as City Hall and The Commons for activities. Many other public and quasi-public facilities are also used by the parks department, including the National Guard Armory, Foundation for Youth and the schools. The school system and the parks department have an agreement that allows the department to use school facilities without paying a rental fee. The schools are used for many activities; however, there is even a greater potential to use these facilities as quasi-community centers. Currently, some of the indoor and outdoor facilities at the elementary, middle and high schools are used for various types of recreation programs including sports and youth recreation. The potential use of the schools for recreational pursuits is much greater than the current use. The decentralized location of schools provides the community with existing facilities that can be developed as neighborhood centers through cooperative programming, facility management, and financing in order to further develop and enhance the lives of citizens of Columbus. Three schools, Richards, Parkside and Columbus East High School were developed on parkland. Richards Park has been developed in conjunction with the school corporation. The playground at Parkside was renovated in 2006 through a joint effort by the department, the Parkside PTA, school corporation and the Service League. This universally accessible playground is the largest in the State and is called Freedom Field.

As mentioned, the schools of the community provide an important recreation resource to the community. All of the schools have some outdoor recreational facilities associated with them. Fodrea Elementary, Columbus East High School and McDowell Adult

Education Center provide additional opportunities for recreation in East Columbus (basketball and tennis courts, softball fields, etc.) Lincoln Elementary and Central Middle School provide recreational opportunities for the near downtown area (basketball courts, playground and play areas, etc.) The school corporation is constructing a new Central Middle School facility and will be developing a larger athletic facility to serve this area of town. Northside Middle School, Columbus North High School and Schmitt Elementary provide recreational opportunities to north-central Columbus (athletic fields, tennis courts, playground, basketball courts, etc.) As indicated above, Parkside and Richards schools were built on parkland serving northern Columbus and northeastern Columbus, respectively providing recreational opportunities (playgrounds, tennis courts, basketball courts, etc). Smith Elementary School provides some recreational opportunities to the area south of 25<sup>th</sup> Street and north of US 31 (playground, play area and basketball courts). All of these schools as well as those outside of the city limits (Rockcreek, Southside, Taylorsville, Mount Healthy and Clifty Creek) have indoor facilities as well which have potential for further utilization. See Appendix D – Map with schools and parks)

The road network throughout the city is fairly good and is improving. An important improvement was the extension of Taylor Road to Marr Road. Improvements being made to US 31 including widening the road and replacement of bridges will improve the flow of traffic in and out of town.

While traffic circulation and access is adequate at the present time, pedestrian circulation is limited in some areas. Many of the main circulation roads throughout town are lacking in sidewalks and other pedestrian ways. The lack of existing sidewalks along major transportation links doubles the importance of the people trails in providing pedestrian links from neighborhoods to other nodes such as parks, schools, institutions and commercial centers. It is now impossible to walk to or through certain areas of town in a safe and efficient manner. Major streets lacking sidewalks in some areas include Tenth Street, Rocky Ford Road, eastern 25<sup>th</sup> Street, U.S. 31, Marr Road and northern Central Avenue. It is very important that future development along these roads include means of pedestrian access in order for people in the community to participate further in one of the most basic recreational pursuits, walking.

The Vision 20/20 Downtown Development Plan proposes a riverfront park, trail and outdoor sports complex development during the next 5-10 years. This would also include an indoor sports complex.



## Social and Economic Factors

### 1. Census Tract Areas

The City of Columbus is divided into 15 census tracts (101-115). These census tracts represent approximations of the neighborhoods of Columbus. The major census tracts within the city are 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108 and 109 and contain most of the city's population. The characteristics of these tracts will be discussed below.

#### a. Census Tract 101

1. Location – The tract encompasses the oldest part of the city. Its northern border is 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Streets, its eastern border is Haw Creek, its western and southern borders are the city limits.
2. Parks – This tract contains two community parks, Noblitt and Mill Race Park, one mini park, Ninth Street Park and two special use parks, Tipton Park and The Commons. It also contains a small portion of Greenbelt Golf Course.
3. Income – This tract ranks last in medium household income (\$24,265 – 2000). It also has the lowest percentage of owner occupied households (36%) and the highest percentage of renter occupied (64%). This tract ranks second with 289 households who do not have a vehicle available.
4. Population – This tract is the third most populous tract in the City of Columbus, containing 4,792 people with 1,087 of those being children under 16. This tract contains 12.3% of the city's children. It ranks eighth in the number (367) and percentage (17.7%) of people 65 years of age and over. With this size of population, it would be expected that this census tract would have between 23.5 and 37.6 acres of community park space. It more than meets this desired acreage amount with over 128 acres of community park space; however this park space is somewhat removed from the center of population, lying completely along the western boundary of this tract. The location of these community parks is important for the simple reason that this tract lacks neighborhood and mini-parks. The community parks must serve as neighborhood parks. There are no neighborhood parks in this tract. This tract would be expected to have five to ten acres of neighborhood parks. It has only .1 acre of mini-park, substantially less than the 1.25 to 2.5 acres expected in a tract of this size. The tract does contain The Commons, a special use park, featuring an indoor playground which is heavily utilized year round.

#### b. Census Tract 102

1. Location – This tract is located south of U.S. 31 north of 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Streets, east of the Flatrock River, and west of Haw Creek. This tract is divided by 25<sup>th</sup> Street.
2. Parks – This area contains two community parks, Donner and Lincoln, containing 65 acres. Both parks are located south of 25<sup>th</sup> Street. In addition, Noblitt Park is located along the southwest border of this tract.

3. Income – This tract ranks fifth out of the nine tracts in median income (\$43,005 – 2000). This tract ranks fourth in the percentage of owner occupied households (71.9%) and sixth in the percentage of renter occupied households (28.1%). This tract ranks sixth with 80 households who do not have a vehicle available.
4. Population – This is the fifth most populous census tract with 4,341 people of which 883 are children under 16 or 20.3%. It ranks seventh in the number and percentage of children however, it ranks second in the number (506) and percentage (26.5%) of people 65 years of age and over. With this size population, it would be expected that this census tract would have between 21.5 and 34.4 acres of community park space. It more than meets this desired acreage amount with over 65 acres of community park space. There are no neighborhood parks in this tract. This tract would be expected to have 4.5 to 9 acres of neighborhood park land. There are no mini parks in this tract. This tract would be expected to have 1.1 to 2.3 acres of mini park land. As in many of the other census tracts, the community parks must serve as neighborhood parks.

c. Census Tract 103

1. Location – This tract is located north of U.S. 31, west of the Columbus Municipal Airport, east of the Flatrock River and south of C.R. 400N.
2. Parks – This area contains a 59 acre community park, Blackwell Park. In addition, IUPUC Campus is located on the tract's eastern border.
3. Income – This tract ranks first out of the nine tracts in median household income with (\$86,551 – 2000). It also ranks highest in the percentage of owner occupied households (91.7%) and last in the percentage of renter occupied households (8.3%).
4. Population – This is the eighth most populous census tract with 3,687 people of which 936 are children or 25.4%. The tract ranks fifth in the number of children for 10.6% of the city's children. It ranks sixth in the number (284) and percentage (21.9%) of people 65 years of age and over. With this size population, it would be expected that this census tract would have between 18 and 28.8 acres of community park space. It more than meets this desired acreage amount with over 59 acres of community park space. There are no neighborhood parks in this tract. This tract would be expected to have 3.7 to 7.4 acres of neighborhood park land. There are no mini parks in this tract. This tract would be expected to have .9 to 1.8 acres of mini park land.

d. Census Tract 104

1. This tract is located north of U.S. 31, west of Haw Creek, east of Westenedge Drive, and south of the corporation limits of C.R. 500 N.
2. Parks – This tract contains a mini park, Mead Village Park. It also contains a small portion of Everroad Park, a mainly undeveloped neighborhood park.
3. Income – This tract ranks third in median household income (\$54,808 – 2000). This tract has the second highest percentage of owner occupied households

(90.7%) and the eighth highest percentage of renter occupied households. This tract ranks eighth with 51 households who do not have a vehicle available.

4. Population – This tract is the fourth most populous tract in the City of Columbus, containing 4,691 people with 1,249 being children under 16. This tract contains slightly more than 14% of the city's children. It ranks seventh in percentage of elderly households (17.9%). Based on the population of this tract, it would be expected that this census tract would have between 23 and 37.6 acres of community park space and 4.5 to 9 acres of neighborhood park land. This tract meets the desired acreage amount for mini parks with Mead Village Park at 2 acres.

e. Census Tract 105

1. Location – This tract is located north of U.S. 31, east of Haw Creek, west of Fairlawn Drive and Taylor Road and south of the corporation limits.
2. Parks – This tract contains the Par 3 golf course and approximately 17 acres of mainly undeveloped Everroad Park. The 8 acre Richards School Park, a neighborhood park is located adjacent to Par 3 Golf Course in census tract 106. Lincoln Park is located .25 miles from the southwest corner of this census tract.
3. Income – This tract ranks fourth in median household income (\$52,458 – 2000).
4. This tract has the third highest percentage of owner occupied households (74.6%) and the seventh highest percentage of renter occupied households. This tract ranks fifth with 88 households who do not have a vehicle available.
5. Population – This tract is the second most populous tract in the City of Columbus, containing 4,908 people with 1,084 (or 22%) being children under 16. This tract contains slightly more than 12% of the city's children. It ranks fifth in percentage of elderly households (22.8%). Based on the population of this tract, it would be expected to have between 24.5 and 39.2 acres of community park space. This tract contains no community park space. Approximately 17 acres of Everroad Park, a neighborhood park, is located within this tract, in which it would be expected to have 4.5 to 9 acres of neighborhood park land. In addition, the 8 acre Richards School Park is located along the east boundary of this tract. There are no mini parks in this tract, in which there would be expected to be 1 to 2 acres of mini park land.

f. Census Tract 106

1. Location – This tract is located north of Clifty Creek, east of Fairlawn Drive and Taylor Road, west of Talley Road and south of Rocky Ford Road.
2. Parks – This tract contains the 8 acre Richards School Park and the 35.6 acre McCullough's Run Park. Par 3 Golf Course is located adjacent to Richards in census tract 105.
3. Income – This tract ranks sixth in median household income (\$38,107-2002). This tract has the sixth highest percentage of owner occupied households (53.2%) and the fourth highest percentage of renter occupied households. This tract ranks first with 305 households who do not have a vehicle available.



4. Population – The tract is the most populous tract in the City of Columbus, containing 4,989 people with 1,023 of those or 20.5% being children under 16. This tract contains slightly less than 12% of the city's children. It has the highest percentage of elderly households (27.3%). Based on the population of this tract, it would be expected that this census tract would have between 25 and 40 acres of community park space. This tract contains no community park space. The goal for neighborhood park land for this tract would be 5 to 10 acres which is exceeded with McCulloughs Run Park and Richards School Park. There are no mini parks in this tract, which would be expected to have 1 to 2 acres of mini park land.

g. Census Tract 107

1. Location – This tract is located south of U.S. 31, east of Haw Creek, west of Clifty Creek and south of McKinley Avenue.
2. Parks – This tract contains the majority of Greenbelt Golf Course and the .7 acre Morningside Park, a mini park. Lincoln Park is located adjacent to the northwest side of this census tract.
3. Income – This tract ranks seventh in median household income (\$31,696 – 2000). This tract has the seventh highest percentage of owner occupied households and the third highest percentage of renter occupied households. This tract ranks fourth with 148 households who do not have a vehicle available.
4. Population – This tract is the least populous tract in the City of Columbus, containing 3,590 people with 747 of those or 20.1% being children under 16. This tract contains slightly more than 8.5% of the city's children. It has the third highest percentage of elderly households (24.7%). Based on the population of this tract, it would be expected that this tract would have between 18 and 29 acres of community park space. This tract contains no community park space, although Lincoln Park is located adjacent to this tract's northwest side. There are no neighborhood parks in this tract, in which there would be expected to be 3.6 to 7.2 acres of neighborhood park land. There is a .7 acre mini-park in this tract, in which there would be expected to be .9 to 1.8 acres of mini park land.

h. Census Tract 108

1. Location – This tract is located south of McKinley Avenue, east of Haw Creek, west of Clifty Creek and north of the corporate limits.
2. Parks – This tract contains 89 acre Clifty/Amberly Park, a community park and Pence Street Park, a mini park.
3. Income – This tract ranks eighth in median income (\$31,584 – 2000). This tract has the eighth highest percentage of owner occupied households (51.4%) and the second highest percentage of renter occupied households. This tract ranks third with 215 households who do not have a vehicle available.
4. Population – This tract is the seventh most populous tract in the City of Columbus, containing 3,742 people with 881 of those or 24% being children under 16. This tract ranks eighth in the number of children, with about 10% of the city's children. It ranks fourth in percentage of elderly households (24%). Based

on the population of this tract, it would be expected that this census tract would have between 18.5 to 29 acres of community park space. This tract contains 89 acres of community park space. There are no neighborhood parks in this tract, in which there would be expected to be 3.7 to 7.4 acres of neighborhood park land. There is a 2.1 acre mini park in this tract, in which there would be expected to be 1 to 2 acres of mini park land.

i. Census Tract 109

1. Location – This tract is located mainly south of S.R. 46, west of I-65, north of C.R. 200S, and east of the corporate limits.
2. Parks – This tract contains 4 acre Harrison Ridge Park and 9.12 acre Oakbrook Park, both neighborhood parks.
3. Income – This tract ranks second in median household income (\$67,054 – 2000). This tract has the fifth highest percentage of owner occupied households (71.3%) and ranks fifth in renter occupied households. This tract ranks seventh with 73 households who do not have a vehicle available.
4. Population – This tract is the sixth most populous tract in the City of Columbus, containing 3,820 people with 892 of those or 23.3% being children under 16. This tract contains slightly more than 10% of the city's children. This tract ranks last in the number (240) and percentage (15.4%) of people over 65. Based on population of this tract, it would be expected that this census tract would have between 19 and 30.4 acres of community park space. This tract contains no community park space. There are 13 acres of neighborhood park space in this tract, in which there would be expected to be 3.7 to 7.4 acres of neighborhood park space. There are no mini parks in this tract, in which there would be expected to be 1 to 2 acres of mini park land.

## Population Analysis

According to 2000 census figures, the population of Columbus has increased by 7,257 people (22.8%) from 31,802 in 1990 to 39,059 in 2000. The total population in Bartholomew County increased by 7,778 people (12.2%) from 63,657 in 1990 to 71,435 in 2000.

In 1990, the number of children under the age of 14 was 6,522 or 20.5% of the total population. In 2000 the number of children under 14 was 8,494 or an increase to 21.7% of the total population. The number of children under age of 5 increased by 624 children (27.4%) from 2,274 (7.1% of total) in 1990 to 2,898 (7.4% of total) in 2000. The number of persons over 65 was 4,445 or 14% of the total 1990 city population. In 2000, the number of persons over the age of 65 increased by 921 people (20.7%) to 5,366 or 13.7% of the total population. The median age in Columbus rose from 34.6 to 36.4. This is consistent with state trends that show that the state's population is getting older. In 2000, 12.3% of the state's population was over 65. That compares to 12.56% in 1990.

The minority population in Columbus increased from 5.5% in 1990 to 8.7% in 2000. The Hispanic population has increased 205% over the past ten years but according to

representatives from Su Casa they feel the Hispanic population is still much higher than is reported. In addition, the Asian population in Columbus more than doubled from 508 in 1990 to 1,260 people in 2000 (248% increase). The median household income in Columbus in 1989 was \$28,859 and in Bartholomew County \$30,971. The median household income for the State of Indiana in 2002 was \$41,973 and for Bartholomew County it was \$45,300.

See Appendix H for graphs of the following areas.

Population growth – H - 1

Population characteristics – H- 1

Ethnic make up H - 1

Income and population distribution - H-2

Age Distributions – H-3

Median Household Income – H-4

## **System Inventory**

### **Facilities**

The park system in Columbus is one component of the community's recreational system, which also includes the public school system, as well as public and private recreational facilities. This section concentrates on a description and inventory of the park system.

In addition to the self-sufficiency issue related to facility usage, the demand on facility space is becoming increasingly problematic for facility users. The rise in the number competing facility users (created from the demand for specialized services) has caused facility coordination to be of the utmost importance. More attention will have to be paid in the future to the efficient allocation of community resources in order for the community to obtain the services it needs and requires. In order to manage and assess community facility needs, all facility users will have to address this issue together and not independently.

### **Community Parks**

#### **Clifty Park - 89 acres**

Clifty Park is located in southeast Columbus, just south of Indiana Avenue and East of Marr Road. For the purposes of this study, the 89 acres comprising Amberly Park (east of Clifty Creek) and all land east of Marr Road will be considered Clifty Park. The fenced football field / track for Columbus East High School located in the park is an exception, since it was developed by the high school and is inventoried as a school facility.

The park is primarily in the 100 year flood plain and is fairly level. Clifty Creek separates a 17-acre tract along the east edge. The only major areas of trees are along Clifty Creek and in the 7-acre site immediately opposite the high school, which is used for picnic sites.

#### Maintenance Concerns/Future Development

- . Link park with Richards via People Trail
- . Link park with McCulloughs Run Park along Clifty Creek
- . Build concession stand/restrooms

#### Recreation Programs

- . Baseball/Fastpitch/Softball Leagues/Tournaments
- . Playground
- . Skateboarding

- . Volleyball Leagues
- . Basketball Leagues
- . High School Football and Track Site
- . People Trail

### **Donner/Weiser Park - 32 Acres**

This park is located in the center of the city. The streets that border the park are 22nd on the north, Lafayette on the west, 16th on the south and Chestnut on the east. Donner Center houses the offices of the Parks and Recreation Department. The park is heavily wooded on the west half and relatively open on the east. A cemetery is located on the south side of Donner Park.

#### Maintenance Concerns/Future Development

- . Pool Deck Renovation
- . Paint pool locker rooms
- . Donner restroom renovation
- . Upgrade entrance to the pool area

#### Recreation Programs

- . Aquatic Center – Public Sessions, Masters Swim, Swim Inst., Swim Meets
- . Basketball
- . People Trail
- . Playground
- . Tennis

### **Lincoln Park - 33 Acres**

Lincoln Park is situated southeast of the intersection of 25<sup>th</sup> Street and Hawcreek Boulevard, and it is centrally located in the City of Columbus. The park abuts Haw Creek on the east side, but that relationship is not recognized in the design of the park. The road system winds through the east side of the park, thus cutting off the main park from Haw Creek. In 2004 the Haw Creek section of the People Trail was constructed in this area between the road and creek.

Lincoln Park has 6 premier softball fields and Hamilton Center. Hamilton Center is the ice arena which has both regulation ice and a small ice surface as well as a pro shop and concession stand.

Maintenance Concerns/Future Development

- . Hamilton Center roof
- . Maintain fields in a quality manner
- . Upgrade Hamilton Center entrance
- . Upgrade restrooms
- . Upgrade concession area

Recreation Programs

- . Softball/Baseball - Leagues/Tournaments
- . Basketball
- . Tennis Instruction/Tournaments
- . Tour de Trail Walking/Biking Event
- . Hamilton Center – Public Sessions, Skate Instruction, Hockey Leagues
- . People Trail
- . Playground

**Mill Race Park - 83 Acres**

Mill Race Park is located due west of downtown Columbus and is entered from an extension of Fifth Street. The park is surrounded by the Flatrock and Driftwood Rivers on three sides and the Penn Central Railroad and U.S. 31 on the east. The park contains a variety of tree cover and open space. It is relatively flat, and over 80% of the land is in the floodway and subject to flooding every year.

Maintenance Concerns/Future Development

- . Providing proper security
- . Replacement of Tower Elevator
- . Drainage improvements due to constant flooding
- . Maintaining the quality of the existing improvements
- . Addition of a Senior Center

Recreation Programs

- . Basketball
- . Community events (concerts, fund raising events/walks)

- . Fishing
- . Horseshoes
- . People Trail
- . Playground
- . Tour de Trails Bike Event (2007)

### **Noblitt Park – 46 Acres**

Noblitt Park is located adjacent to the Flatrock River and is bordered on the north by Newsom Avenue and on the east by Jackson Street. The main entrance to the park is from 17th Street. The park is substantially within flood plain boundaries, containing large mature trees in the northwest quadrant and heavy woods in the remainder of the western edge.

#### Maintenance Concerns/Future Development

- . Pave parking lots
- . Develop park
- . Install riverbank stabilization methods
- . Add restrooms

#### Recreation Programs

- . Baseball/Softball League practices
- . Frisbee
- . People Trail
- . High School Cross Country meets

### **Blackwell Park - 59 Acres**

Blackwell Park is located on the north side of town adjacent to Parkside Elementary School. The park is a largely open, grassy area.

#### Maintenance Concerns/Future Development

- . Develop park/soccer fields
- . Increase parking areas
- . Install a People Trail – trail head



- . Install press box
- . Maintain fields at a quality playing level
- . Plant trees
- . Upgrade restroom facilities and shelter

#### Recreation Programs

- . Soccer Leagues/Tournaments
- . Freedom Field (universally accessible playground)
- . Summer Playground Program
- . Community events (fireworks, walks)
- . People Trail

#### **Neighborhood Parks**

##### **Everroad Park - 25 Acres**

Everroad Park is located just northwest of the intersection of 25<sup>th</sup> Street and U.S. 31. Although it is in close proximity to Lincoln Park, intensive commercial development and heavy traffic separate the two facilities. This park is presently undeveloped except for the People Trail. Access to the park can be derived from 30th Street from the west, 32nd Street from the east. This park is located primarily within the floodway of Haw Creek and is subject to flooding. Erosion problems are also present along stream banks.

#### Maintenance Concerns/Future Development

- . Flooding and erosion problems
- . Access problems
- . Maintenance of People Trails

#### Recreation Programs

- . People Trail

##### **Harrison Ridge Park - 4 Acres**

Harrison Ridge Park is located in Tipton Lakes on the southwest side of Columbus. At least two other public parks are planned within the development. In addition, the developer has provided extensive private recreational opportunities.

#### Maintenance Concerns/Future Development



- . New 2-5 year old playground
- . Restrooms

#### Recreation Programs

- . Basketball
- . Handball/Racquetball
- . Playground
- . Tennis
- . Summer Playground Program

#### **McCulloughs Run Park – 36 Acres**

McCulloughs Run Park is located east off of 25<sup>th</sup> Street at McCulloughs Run Drive. This park was recently donated to the department by the Columbus Park Foundation. Approximately one-third of the park has been developed with a playground, field sports area, prairie planting and vegetative swales and detention basin using a grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Future development plans include a basketball court, another vegetative swale and detention basin and walking trails.

#### Maintenance Concerns/Future Development

- . Basketball court
- . Walking trails
- . Informational signs
- . Flooding and erosion problems
- . Access problems
- . Connection to People Trails

#### Recreation Programs

- . Playground
- . Summer Playground Program
- . Prairie conservation area with nature trails
- . Field Sports area

#### **Oakbrook Park - 9.12 Acres**

Oakbrook Park is located at the northeast corner of Oakbrook Drive and Goeller Blvd. in Tipton Lakes. This park land was set aside by the developer of the Oakbrook subdivision. Development of the park was a cooperative effort between the property owner, Tipton Lakes Company, residents of the area and the parks department. Tipton Lakes Company maintained the park for two years after it was developed. The park has now been transferred to the city for a neighborhood park. The park contains a small lake, basketball courts, people trail and a playground area.

Maintenance Concerns/Future Development

- . Playground and basketball court – maintenance and repairs

Recreation Programs

- . Basketball
- . People Trails
- . Playground
- . Nature trail

**Richards School Park - 8 Acres**

Richards School Park is located adjacent to the Rocky Ford Par-3 Golf Course along Fairlawn Avenue. The area was sold to the Bartholomew County Consolidated School Corporation for \$1.00 by the parks and recreation department in 1970 for construction of the elementary school. The school district and the department have continued to work together to develop the park and share in some maintenance responsibilities as per our school/park agreement.

Maintenance Concerns/Future Development

- . Connection to People Trails
- . Tennis court maintenance and repairs
- . A loop trail

Recreation Programs

- . Tennis Instruction/Leagues
- . Golf Driving Range
- . Playground

**Mini-Parks**

**Mead Village Park - 2 Acres**

Mead Village Park is located on Locust Street, north of U.S. 31 and Northside Junior High School. It is primarily a walk-to park, with the only tree cover located in the parking area.

Maintenance Concerns/Future Development

- . New shelter and play equipment
- . Update park

Recreation Programs

- . Basketball
- . Playground
- . Summer Recreation Program

**Morningside Park - .7 Acres**

Morningside Park is a small park on the city's near east side, south of Tenth Street. An asphalt walkway winds through the center of the park. The south end of the park includes a large sand area, earth mounds and playground equipment. During the last five years, neighborhood residents requested little development because they were concerned that it would prompt more teenagers and young adults to "hang out" there. Vandalism has continued to be a problem; parks department equipment has been destroyed.

Maintenance Concerns/Future Development

- . Small park is difficult to maintain
- . Playground equipment

Recreation Programs

- . Basketball
- . Playground

**Pence Street Park - 2.1 Acres**

Pence Street Park is located along Pence Street, south of S.R. 46, in the southeastern section of Columbus. It is one of the heaviest used parks in the system. Vandalism continues to be a major problem with damages to playground equipment and fencing.

Maintenance Concerns/Future Development

- . Deter vandalism
- . Get neighborhood involved

- . Maintain at quality level
- . Replace playground equipment
- . Shelter

#### Recreation Programs

- . Playground
- . Summer Playground Program

### **9th Street Park - 0.2 Acre**

9<sup>th</sup> Street Park is the smallest park in the system, and is located near the center of Columbus at the end of Wilson Street, just below Tenth Street. It occupies two residential lots in an older fully-developed neighborhood.

#### Maintenance Concerns/Future Development

- . Deter vandalism
- . Keep neighborhood involved
- . Maintain at quality level - Safety

#### Recreation Programs

- . Basketball
- . Summer Playground Program

### **Special Use Parks**

#### **The Commons - Fourth and Washington**

In 1989 the parks department assumed responsibility for the maintenance of The Commons facility in addition to assisting with programming, marketing and business services. The Commons is an indoor performance space and park designed as a community meeting space located at 4<sup>th</sup> and Washington Street in the heart of downtown Columbus.

#### Maintenance Concerns/Future Development

- . Renovation of playground and entire Commons facility

#### Recreation Programs

- . Major Community Events/Concerts/Proms (over 100,000 attendance/yearly)
- . Playground

### **Greenbelt Golf Course - 82 Acres**

This special use park consists of the 9-hole golf course, driving range and putting green. The main entrance is located off Gladstone, north of Tenth Street.

#### Maintenance Concerns/Future Development

- . Bridge repair
- . Cart Path System
- . Clubhouse repairs
- . Maintenance of People Trail on fringe of golf course

#### Recreation Programs

- . Golf Rounds/Driving Range/Putting Green
- . Golf Leagues/Tournaments
- . Golf Lessons/Jr. Golf
- . People Trail

### **Rocky Ford Par-3 Golf Course - 46.6 Acres**

This special use park is situated in the northeast corner of Columbus, across from Richards School on Fairlawn Drive.

#### Maintenance Concerns/Future Development

- . Clubhouse repairs
- . Improve and maintain course at quality level
- . Replace irrigation system

#### Recreation Programs

- . Golf Rounds
- . Golf Leagues/Tournaments
- . Golf Lessons
- . Putting Green

### **Foundation for Youth/Columbus Gymnastic Center – 4.2 Acres**

The Foundation for Youth offices are in a jointly run facility with the Columbus Parks and Recreation Gymnastic Center located on the east side of Columbus. The Boys

and Girls Club is located in this building along with the Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Teen Court and Youth as Resources organizations.

Maintenance Concerns/Future Development

- . Maintain at quality level

Recreation Programs

- . Basketball/Volleyball
- . Gymnastics/Fitness
- . Fun Zone
- . Playground
- . Weight Room

**Senior Center**

The parks department became responsible for capital projects and maintenance at the Senior Center in 1991. This building at 148 Lindsey provides meeting and activity space for the elderly population of Columbus. Due to inadequate space, a new Senior Center is in the design phase and will be located in Mill Race Park.

Maintenance Concerns/Future Development

- . Develop new Senior Center in Mill Race Park

Recreation Programs

- . Dances/Concerts
- . Exercise Programs
- . People Trail
- . Senior Products
- . Small Performances

**Tipton Park - 0.1 Acre**

Tipton Park is a small landscaped area adjacent to the Senior Center, along Second Street, southwest of downtown Columbus. Only mowing and maintenance of plants is performed by the parks department.

**State Route 46 - 3.5 Acres**

The park department is currently maintaining a landscaped planting project along both sides of State Road 46 on the west side of Columbus. This area was developed to create a more attractive entrance into the city.

Maintenance Concerns/Future Development

- . Deter vandalism
- . Maintenance of the wildflower meadow
- . Trail amenities
- . Trail head and parking for the People Trail

Recreation Programs

- . People Trails

**Linear Parks**

**People Trails – 19.0 + Miles**

The People Trails system was initially conceived of in 1986 in order to further meet the recreational needs of the community. The trail system now consists of the following sections. (Map following page 31)

Current Facilities

- . Mill Race Park to Tipton Lakes – This 2.9 mile section starts at the southern end of Mill Race Park and ends at Tipton Lakes Development at the intersection of Goeller Boulevard and SR 46W
- . Mill Race Park to Noblitt Park - This two-mile section starts at the southern end of Mill Race Park and ends at the parking lot of Noblitt Park
- . Noblitt to Donner to Lincoln - This one and a half mile section of trail mostly consists of existing sidewalks and runs from the Noblitt parking lot to Donner Park via 17th Street, then diagonally through Donner Park to 19th Street and then follows 19th Street to Lincoln Park.
- . Home Avenue to Blackwell Park - This two-mile portion of trail runs north along Home Avenue from 19th Street to Blackwell Park/Parkside School.
- . Blackwell Park to IUPUC - This one-mile section of trail runs along the west side of Blackwell Park through the airport property to Bakalar Drive. The trail then parallels Bakalar Drive to Central Avenue.

- . Clifty Park - This one and one-fourth mile trail consists of a loop around Clifty Park. This loop is connected to East Columbus at Covert Drive via a .5 mile sidewalk along the west side of Marr Road and the north side of State Street. There is also access to this trail via .5 miles of sidewalk along the north side of Indiana Avenue from Gladstone to Marr. The existing sidewalk along Indiana Avenue was extended from Brooks to Gladstone in 1992.
- . Haw Creek Trail – This 6 mile portion of trail begins at the State Street/Central Avenue intersection to Rocky Ford Road/Marr Road intersection.

#### Maintenance Concerns/Future Development

- . Add trail connection to the Fairgrounds
- . Preventing motorized vehicles from using trail
- . Providing appropriate security and signage
- . Keeping people trails clean
- . Repairing and maintaining all trail areas
- . Implementing people trails plan for future development
- . Research into the trail to Nashville development

#### Recreation Programs

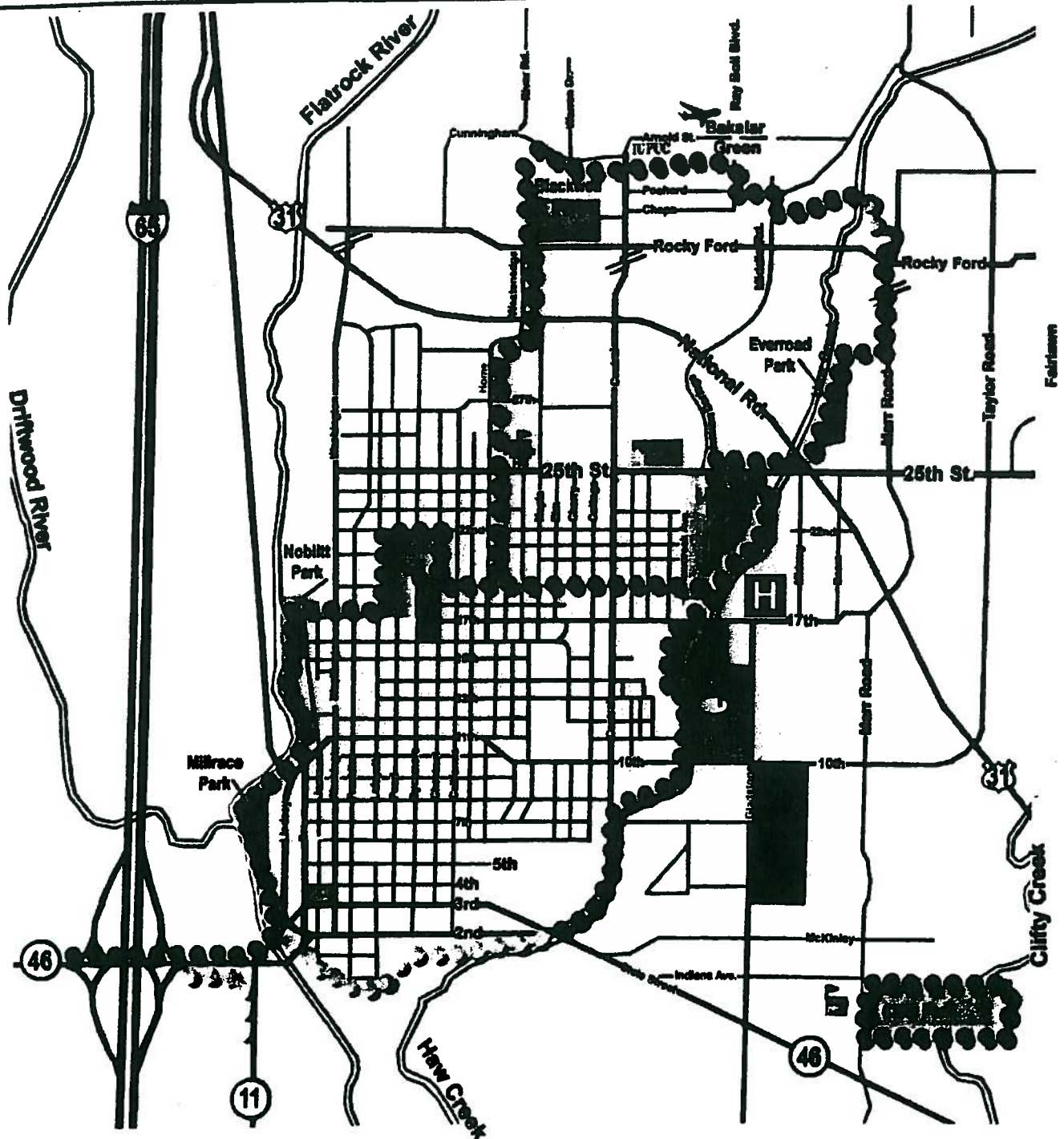
- . Community Walks/Competitive Runs
- . Biking
- . Roller Blading
- . Walking/Running
- . Tour de Trails event



# Columbus People Trails System Map

●●●● Existing Trail

~~~~~ Proposed Trail



**The People Trails are multiuse paved trails designed for bikers runners, walker, and roller skaters. Some areas of the People Trails are city sidewalks.**

## People Trail Mileage:

- State St. to Lincoln Park: 2 miles
- Lincoln Park to Bakalar Green: 4 miles
- Bakalar Green to Blackwell Park: 2 miles
- Blackwell Park to Donner Park: 1.5 miles
- Donner Park to Mill Race Tower: 2.5 miles
- Mill Race Tower to Goeller Blvd: 2.9 miles

## **Programs**

CPRD offers a significant number of programs from recreation to sports and athletics. Some programs are site or facility specific and others are made available throughout the community.

Sports and fitness programs are primarily oriented toward active physical participation and organized athletics, including such typical active offerings as youth baseball, soccer, basketball, tennis and softball. Summer programs emphasize playground activity programs, recreational pre-school, day camps and outdoor plays and concerts. The Mill Race Players and the Junior Mill Race Players provide opportunities for adults and children to participate in theatrical events.

The department partners with Columbus Area Arts Council (CAAC) to increase the scope of the department's support of the arts. An adapted aquatics class is offered during the summer for special population youth. The department is involved in programming and activities for teens. Teen activities have included dances, concerts and community service programs. The department sponsors or co-sponsors a variety of community wide activities and special events with other local organizations, including a Halloween costume contest and parade, an Easter egg hunt and "Donner Park Variety Shows".

In 1996 the department pooled resources with multiple youth serving organizations, with the department being a primary stakeholder along with the Foundation for Youth, Boys and Girls Club and the United Way to re-construct and operate a youth center, gymnastic center and pool facilities. After school programming at the new facility has seen an increase in daily attendance for the Boys and Girls Club.

As mentioned, the CPRD provides a wide range of programming because it is a recreation department. According to the American College Dictionary, recreation is defined as a pastime, diversion, exercise or other resource affording relaxation and enjoyment and as refreshment by means of some pastime, agreeable exercise or the like.

The parks and recreation department tries to meet as many of the community's recreational needs as is feasible. The department provides activities within the following categories: sports and fitness, summer programs, crafts and performing arts, special population activities, teen activities and cooperative community and special events. Through its growing relationship with the Columbus Area Arts Council, the department is becoming more involved in providing and promoting arts programs to the community.

## **Sports and Fitness**

These programs are historically considered to be related to the parks department. The department offers opportunities to participate in sports such as basketball, baseball, softball, tennis, hockey, soccer, golf, gymnastics, volleyball, ice skating, broomball,

kickball, aerobic classes and swimming. In 2006, participation in sports and fitness activities was well over 100,000. Participation levels during 2006 in some of the major sports activities are shown below.

| SPORTS            | PARTICIPANTS  | # OF OCCASIONS             |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| Youth Baseball    | 645           | 12 games & Tourn.          |
| Softball          | 207 teams     | 12 games & Tourn.          |
| Volleyball        | 63 teams      | Seven matches & tournament |
| Soccer            | 2,313         | 6 games/2 sessions         |
| Golf - Greenbelt  | 21,602 rounds | All public rounds          |
| Golf - Par 3      | 12,695 rounds | All public rounds          |
| Gymnastics        | 1,329         | 8- 6 wk sessions           |
| Tennis Lessons    | 405           | 10 Lesson/sessions         |
| Ice Skating       | 10,002        | All public sessions        |
| Public Swimming   | 33,720        | All public sessions        |
| Body Fit Aerobics | 2,457         | Six - 8 week sessions      |

### **Summer Children's Programs**

The park and recreation department offers free supervised playground programs, pre-school day camps and sports camps for children ages 3 through 5 and day camps and sports camps for ages 6-15. Several free fun days are held with themes including a Princess and Pirate Party and Carnival Day.

### **Crafts and Performing Arts**

The department provides various craft classes including basket making and jewelry design.

Theater experiences have been made available through financial and facility support for the Mill Race Players. Mill Race Players have provided the community with inexpensive, convenient, quality theater since 1969. The department offers Junior Mill Race programs providing a fun training ground for aspiring young actors and actresses.

The Columbus Area Arts Council provides many arts programs at the department's Commons facility. Many more opportunities for outdoor arts programs are provided

at the Custer- Nugent amphitheater at Mill Race Park. This includes concerts and community festivals.

### **Special Populations**

A learn to swim program for special populations is held each summer with full enrollment for the classes. Children and adults are mainstreamed into recreation programs sometime resulting in a need for additional staff or accommodations which are met. Children of all abilities have been involved in the summer playground program, day camps and pre-school activities and have had enjoyable, valuable learning experiences.

### **Teen Activities**

The department provides recreation opportunities specifically for teenagers. Over the past few years, the Teen Council with support from the Parks and Recreation Department and Foundation for Youth has been responsible for sponsoring a variety of events each year. The teens generate program ideas and work to implement them with our guidance from department staff. Popular events include “Battle of the Bands”, “Java Jive” and “Back to School Bash”. A “Date Auction” was added in 2004 and has become an anticipated event each year. The Teen Council has also fostered involvement in several local volunteer/service projects. The teens coordinated donations of food for Love Chapel, volunteered support for the Council for Youth Development carnival and “Drive In Movie” and raised money to support the Salvation Army’s Angel Tree Program.

### **Community Activities and Special Events**

These programs are held throughout the year and are often co-sponsored with community service organizations in Columbus. Programs that have become annual favorites of the community include “Bark in the Park”, the Easter Egg Hunt, Country in the Park, Halloween Costume Contest and Parade, and the After Prom Party.

### **Partners**

One of the many strengths of the Columbus Parks and Recreation Board is the partnerships it has developed throughout the community. Over the past year and during the next we the department is striving to develop or update memorandums of understanding with each of our partners to fully detail how the partnership will work and benefit each of the organizations. Below is a listing of those partners and a sample of the MOU’s can be found in Appendix E.

Bartholomew County Park Board

Columbus Regional Hospital – Wellness Program

Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation

Columbus Area Arts Council  
Columbus Visitors Center  
Foundation for Youth  
Bartholomew County Park Board  
Columbus Gymnastics Center Booster Club  
Columbus Youth Soccer Association Board  
Columbus/Babe Ruth Baseball Board  
Columbus Softball Association  
Columbus Youth Hockey Association  
Lincoln Center Figure Skating Club  
IUPUC  
Donner Swim Club

## Standards Analysis

This determination of needs is based on standards set forth in Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines, by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). NRPA suggests that a park system be composed of a “core” system of park lands, with a minimum of 6.25 to 10.5 acres of developed open space per 1000 population. This core system consists of mini-parks, neighborhood parks and community parks. The current (2000 census) population estimate for Columbus is 39,059. Therefore, by NRPA standards, Columbus should ideally have between 244 and 410 acres of park land. Columbus meets this standard, with approximately 440.8 acres of developed park land, excluding the two golf courses.

Additional undeveloped park land includes 25 acres at Everroad Park and 49.5 acres at Northbrook Park. NRPA recommends a classification system for local recreation open space, which has been used as a model. Columbus categorizes parks into five types of outdoor recreation areas: Community park, neighborhood park, mini-park, special use park and linear park.

### Community Parks

**Purpose:** To provide a variety of activities and recreational opportunities that are of interest to the entire general population. These parks may be designed for active participation with sports fields and a wide variety of facilities, or intended for passive recreation with underdeveloped areas.

**Typical Facilities:** A community park may contain one or more of the following:

|               |                      |               |                   |
|---------------|----------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Picnic Tables | Swimming Pools       | Boat Ramps    | Basketball Courts |
| Ball fields   | Playground Equipment | Tennis Courts | Volleyball Courts |
| Nature Trails | Exercise Trails      | Restrooms     | Amphitheater      |
| Shelters      | Bike Paths           | Gardens       | Horseshoe Courts  |
| Parking Lots  | Skating Rinks        |               |                   |

**Size:** NRPA standards suggest that community parks should be a minimum of 25 acres.

**Parks:** Blackwell, Lincoln, Mill Race, Clifty, Donner/Weiser and Noblitt Park.

**Special Considerations:** These parks should be equally distributed throughout the community and contain ample spaces for off-street parking. They can include facilities normally found in neighborhood parks and should, in fact meet the needs of the neighborhood within which the park is located. Ideally, the park should contain a variety of landscape features such as irregular level topography, water and woodlands.

**Columbus Standards:** With the exception of northeast Columbus (census tracts 105 and 106), community parks are fairly well distributed throughout the city. NRPA standards recommend 5-8 acres of community parks per 1000 population, meaning Columbus should have between



195 and 312 acres. Columbus has over 392 acres, resulting in excellent access to several diverse community parks.

### **Neighborhood Parks**

**Purpose:** To provide a variety of active and passive recreation opportunities to residents located within a 0-15 minute walk of the park.

**Typical Facilities:** A neighborhood park may include one or more of the following:

|                   |                       |               |                      |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Picnic Areas      | Ball fields (pick up) | Tennis Courts | Playground Equipment |
| Shelter           | Basketball Courts     | Sitting Areas | Horseshoe Courts     |
| Volleyball Courts | Open Play Areas       |               |                      |

**Size:** The NRPA standard for neighborhood parks is 15 acres minimum. The recommended size for neighborhood parks in Columbus is 3-15 acres. The size has been adjusted to include what would traditionally be thought of as block parks in some larger cities, but are sufficient to serve Columbus' single family character.

**Parks:** Harrison Ridge, Richards School, Everroad Park, McCulloughs Run and Oakbrook Park

**Special Considerations:** These parks should meet the recreation needs of specific areas of the community, should be easily accessible by foot and ideally should be included as part of a school site. These parks should be designed for intensive use and need to be on relatively flat land.

**Columbus Standards:** Additional neighborhood parks are needed in the northeast area of Columbus and in an area north and east of the downtown area. The existing community parks serve as neighborhood parks for much of the community. NRPA standards recommend one or two acres of neighborhood parks per 1000 population, meaning Columbus should have between 39 and 78 acres. With six parks (one minimally developed and one undeveloped) containing 131.5 acres of neighborhood park land (with about 30 developed acres), there is a shortage of developed neighborhood parks, even though several community parks help to fill neighborhood park needs. Northeast Columbus, east Columbus along State Street, and the area near geographic center of the city are presently deficient in neighborhood park facilities.

### **Mini-parks**

**Purpose:** To provide small and attractive open space within intensively developed sections of the community. These parks typically serve people within a five-minute walking radius of the park.

**Typical Facilities:** A block park may contain one or more of the following:

|               |                      |          |              |
|---------------|----------------------|----------|--------------|
| Picnic Tables | Playground Equipment | Shelters | Sitting area |
|---------------|----------------------|----------|--------------|

**Size:** The NRPA standard for "mini-parks" is one acre or less. In Columbus, mini-parks are between 0.1 and 2.1 acres in size.

Examples: Pence Street, Mead Village, Morningside, Ninth Street

**Special Considerations:** These parks meet a specific need for a small neighborhood or a residential block. They are generally designed for specific age groups (usually children), which necessitates that they be located away from busy streets.

**Columbus Standard:** Under NRPA standards, Columbus should have between 8.5 and 17 acres of these miniature parks. Currently Columbus has approximately 5 acres. Small parks are difficult to maintain unless the adjoining neighborhood either owns the park or treats it as if it was theirs. Just as home ownership is important to neighborhood stability, so too is park “ownership” important to the continued viability of mini-parks as well as all other parks.

Mini-parks, neighborhood parks and community parks are all classified as Local/Close-to-Home space under NRPA standards.

### **Regional Park Space**

The next category is regional space, which should be within one hour of driving time of Columbus. Standards suggest 200 to 336 acres of regional park space should be accessible to Columbus residents. In addition, at least 1000 acres of park reserve land that promotes the natural resources should be within the same proximity. This type of park should be primarily (80%) a conservation area and natural resource management area. The picnicking, boating, fishing, swimming and camping activities associated with active recreational regional parks may be included with these conservancy parks in the remaining area. Atterbury Fish and Wildlife Area, Brown County State Park, Yellowood State Forest and Morgan-Monroe State Forest are all located within one hour of Columbus.

### **Special Use Areas**

**Purpose:** These park lands serve single purposes or meet special interests and needs of the community.

**Typical Facilities:** A special use area may be a:

|                |                 |              |                  |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------|------------------|
| Golf Course    | Nature Preserve | Urban Plaza  | Arboretum        |
| Sports Complex | Historic Site   | Water Access | Outdoor Theaters |
| Entry Corridor |                 |              |                  |

**Size:** Variable, depending on facility requirements.

**Examples:** Greenbelt Golf Course, Rocky Ford Par-3 Golf Course, State Road 46 Entry Corridor, Tipton Park (Senior Center).

**Columbus Standards:** NRPA has no set standards, in general, for how many acres of special use areas a given population should have. However, there are standards for such uses as golf courses, which will be discussed separately. Each community is expected to select special use areas appropriate for their needs.



## **Linear Parks**

**Purpose:** These park lands are developed for various modes of recreational travel within a community.

**Typical Facilities:**

|                            |                |                           |
|----------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| Hiking Trails              | Bike Paths     | Horse Back Riding Courses |
| Cross-Country Skiing Areas | Canoeing Areas | Pleasure Driving Routes   |

**Size:** Variable

**Examples:** Eight miles of existing people trails

**Columbus Standards:** The NRPA standard for trails is that the trail be a part of a system. Therefore, it is extremely important that the existing trails in Columbus be tied together to form a complete, functional trail system for the entire community. An urban trail should also have the capacity to carry 90/hikers/day/mile.

## **Facilities**

Just as there are national standards for park land, there are also standards set by the NRPA for facilities. Using population standards, facilities in the Columbus Parks and Recreation System have been analyzed based on the population of Columbus only, even though non-city residents use facilities also. The results are discussed below. It should be noted that these standards are meant only as guidelines. Interests vary by community, and other facilities are provided by the private sector or other organizations.

**Ballfields:** National standards suggest six “Little League” fields for a city the size of Columbus. Columbus has one regulation baseball diamond and eight “Little League” diamonds. There are six softball/baseball diamonds and four fastpitch softball diamonds. Columbus North and Columbus East High Schools each have one baseball field. In fact, the Columbus East baseball diamond as well as its football field are located at Clifty Park. More baseball could be played at this park in the future if it were to be lighted. There are fifteen existing softball diamonds (only six would be expected). Many diamonds do “double duty”, serving for example, both women’s softball and youth pee-wee baseball.

**Field Sports:** Parks and recreation staff members currently maintain three football fields at one park, with standards calling for a maximum of two. Soccer has been extremely popular in Columbus, which currently boasts thirty seven fields, thirty four of them at one park. NRPA standards would anticipate only three.

**Courts:** Since basketball is such a popular sport in the state of Indiana, it is no surprise that with ten outdoor courts Columbus exceeds the standard of six for a city this size. Indoor courts are available through schools and churches at certain times, in cooperation with the department. Columbus has three outdoor handball courts, more than the two to be expected. National standards call for six volleyball courts. There are four outdoor lighted courts in the system. Two sand volleyball courts are proposed to be built at Mill Race Park.

Tennis is another extremely popular sport locally, with eighteen parks department outdoor courts available, six of which are lighted. The school system also has twelve (10 lighted) outdoor courts which the city programs use during the summer months. National standards suggest Columbus have a minimum of sixteen. Indoor play is available through a private racquet club, which has six courts and works closely with the department. That club also offers four indoor racquetball courts.

**Passive Recreation:** As the population ages, more attention will be paid to less active forms of recreation. Since walking is one of people's favorite leisure activities, a trail system is very important. The people trails master plan attached to this plan proposes that an additional 15.5 miles of trails be developed within the next five years. The initial phase of people trail development over the last five years has resulted in more than eight mile of trails.

**Golf:** The parks and recreation department currently runs one 9-hole golf course and one Par 3 golf course. NRPA standards indicate that there should also be one 18-hole golf course per 50,000 people. Otter Creek, an 27-hole championship golf course designed by Robert Trent Jones encompasses 265 acres. It was given to the city, but is managed by an independent board. Although it is open to the public for play, the green fees needed to maintain this championship course are prohibitive to some residents. There is a private country club in the county which offers a 18-hole golf course also. Walnut Ridge is an 18-hole privately developed and operated course. NRPA suggests that there be a golf driving range with a minimum of 25 tees for each 50,000 people. Both Otter Creek and the 18-hole course have driving ranges associated with them.

**Park Facilities:** Columbus parks currently have 325 picnic tables, over 75 more than suggested for a city this size. There are 16 barbecue areas, which appear adequate. Shelters are located in eleven locations (eight different parks and appear to meet current demands. There are two developed parks which do not have playgrounds (Noblitt and IUPUC), but Noblitt is near Mill Race Park and is linked by trails. NRPA does not set standards for playgrounds, nor do they for restrooms. There are eight restrooms currently available to the users of seven parks.

**Water Sports:** Mill Race Park provides a boat launch on the White River. Although NRPA has set no standards, a national average as used in Kansas City is one launch every ten miles. There is also a fishing area at Mill Race Park. Again, there are no set standards for fishing areas, but it should be noted that there are numerous places to fish in the county.

The National Recreation and Park Association has established a standard of one public swimming pool per 50,000 people. The parks and recreation department operates one outdoor pool at Donner Park. Indoor swimming pools are available to residents during very limited times through a contract with the school system. The public is also allowed to use the indoor pool at the Foundation for Youth during certain hours.

**Ice Arena:** Columbus is fortunate to have an indoor ice arena, which is normally developed for cities of approximately 100,000 people. The city offers hockey and ice skating lessons in

addition to public skating sessions. Columbus residents have access to many other sources of recreation offered by other levels of government, private businesses and local organizations.

**County:** Bartholomew County has seven existing park facilities (See public facilities inventory and map in Appendix D). County Stadium is a ten acre softball/baseball facility containing four lighted diamonds. Heflen Park encompasses 27 acres and is a popular camping facility as well as a day-use park. Other facilities include a shelter, a two-acre pond for fishing, ballfields, courts and playground equipment. Anderson Falls is a 44 acre park located along Clifty Creek. It is a passive recreational facility designed to conserve the falls and the adjoining woodlands and has a trail system. Petersville park is a seven acre site containing three ballfields that are accessible to the physically challenged, an all purpose football/soccer field, a playground, picnic area and shelter and a jogging trail. Wayne Township Park contains 11 1/2 acres and includes two ball diamonds. Owens Bend Park is a passive recreational park along C.R. 550 N. and the Flatrock River. It is primarily an area for fishing and enjoying nature. Grammer Park is located off of C.R. 1000 E., south of C.R. 300 S. and is undeveloped.

**Schools:** The Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation plays a very important role in the provision of recreational services to the Columbus community, due in large part to the reliance of the parks and recreation department on school facilities. Particularly during the winter months when indoor activities predominate, the ability of the department to use school facilities is very important and sensible to the extent that duplicate facilities should not be required. In this fashion, publicly financed buildings are given optimal use, a situation that works to the advantage of the entire community.

The accessibility of school facilities is constrained by the fact that all school events have priority, which sometimes means rescheduling park and recreation activities on a very short notice. The other major difficulty is the cost incurred by the department in paying custodial overtime for use of the facilities, a very substantial expense.

Certain facilities such as playfields and playgrounds are available to the public when not in use by the school. The school system can boast of five indoor swimming pools, two baseball diamonds, eight football fields, eleven softball practice diamonds, 53 basketball goals, three volleyball court, seventeen gyms and twelve tennis courts, ten of them lighted. (Appendix D)

**Employee Facilities:** Of special note are the recreational facilities (See private facility inventory and map in Appendix D) provided by major industrial employers in the county to their employees and families. The Cummins Employee Recreation Association operates a 353-acre facility in Rock Creek Township known as Ceraland. Activities include swimming, boating, camping, fishing, tennis, softball, miniature golf, basketball, trap shooting and others. Indoor activities include weight rooms, two gyms and a running track. In 1988, Ceraland initiated a policy offering membership to employees of other corporations and adult children of employees, because of lower employment levels at Cummins.

Cosco, Inc. operates a 120-acre park which is also managed by an employee's recreation association. Facilities for camping, picnicking, softball, basketball, swimming and fishing

are provided. Given that approximately 8,000 Columbus residents are employed by these two companies, it can be seen that these facilities are available to a significant percentage of local population.

**Community Organizations:** The local Foundation for Youth is an organization that is an umbrella for the Boys and Girls Club and a youth camp. The Foundation for Youth building includes two indoor gyms, gymnastic center, swimming pool, the boys and girls club facility and administrative office space for Big Brothers Big Sisters and Youth as Resources..

They also have a 115-acre youth camp facility on Youth Camp Road. This camp contains athletic fields, basketball courts, a bathhouse, cabins, a lake and boating facilities. The target population is youths aged 5 to 18 years, but facilities are available to others during hours of non-use. Many other groups strive to assist the recreation effort for youth.

**Private:** There are many private businesses in addition to the racquetball club which fill various community recreational needs. Ceraland offers two trap shooting stations. An eight station trap field is suggested for each 50,000 people. Two local businesses offer weight-training facilities.

## Accessibility

The parks department in conjunction with the City of Columbus has continuously strived to provide accessibility to the physically and mentally challenged. Our existing facilities have been reviewed for compliance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA). Major investments in projects have been made to improve facilities which include:

- Donner Center
- Hamilton Center Ice Arena
- Greenbelt Golf Course
- Donner Aquatic Center
- Foundation for Youth/Columbus Gymnastic Center
- Senior Center
- Donner Shelter
- Park Playgrounds
- Mill Race Park

Freedom Field Playground, currently the largest accessible playground in the State, was dedicated in 2006 and it was designed to be universally accessible. Other playgrounds within the department have been upgraded to wood carpet for accessibility.

An accessible lift has been installed at Donner Aquatic Center and most recently a moveable floor was installed in one end of the pool to encourage participation by all.

The People Trails are being designed and developed to meet the ADA guidelines.

The City of Columbus is responsible for ensuring that the parks department as well as the rest of the city complies with all appropriate employment regulations and guidelines (including Section 504 and ADA) with regard to the physically and mentally challenged.

## **Demand Analysis**

### **Public Participation**

As part of the master planning process, public participation was sought in the formulation of issues in the community. This participation was achieved through a combination of methods, which are described below.

#### **Public Meetings**

Citizens are the primary users of the parks and recreation facilities. Public meetings were meant to find common trends in identified issues. There were a total of three public meetings held. All of the public meetings had notices and/or articles concerning them in the Republic newspaper. The first public meeting was held July 6<sup>th</sup> at Ninth Street Park. Approximately 50 park neighbors were in attendance. The second meeting was held October 25, 2006 with 6 people in attendance. The third meeting was held November 8, 2006 with 8 in attendance.

The public meeting at Ninth Street Park focused on discussion of planning for the Ninth Street Park area. Meetings included a brief explanation of the meeting's purpose and the reasons this master plan was being done. Everyone in attendance was provided with information on master plan goals and policies of the park board. The format of the second and third meetings were similar. At each of the meetings everyone was given the opportunity to offer their ideas for the department, raise issues or concerns, say what they liked or didn't like about the department or offer ideas on goals and objectives that we should be striving for. Information on the public meetings is located in Appendix I - 1

#### **Phone Survey**

A random phone survey was undertaken in the spring of 2002 for the department. Chuck Wilt and Katia Hatter of Columbus Parks and Recreation contracted with the Indiana University Public Opinion Laboratory for the survey of residents of Bartholomew County. A copy of the approved questionnaire is included in Appendix I - 2.

A summary of phone survey responses follows:

##### **Use of Park Facilities**

- ✓ Most commonly visited parks in last year were Mill Race (57.8%) and Donner (53.4%). Other commonly used parks were Lincoln Park (20.5%) and Clifty Park (18.5%).
- ✓ When asked specifically about using The Commons in the last year, 61% of respondents said they had visited that facility in the past year.
- ✓ When asked where respondents went to participate in non-competitive outdoor activities, 24.4% go to Mill Race, 12.4% to the People Trails, and 10.4% to Clifty Park. This is compared to 28.4% of respondents who said they most commonly use facilities within their neighborhood (sidewalks, streets, etc.) for non-competitive outdoor recreation.

##### **Satisfaction with park facilities**



- ✓ A large majority of respondents believe that the park grounds and facilities are maintained in an 'excellent' or 'good' manner (87.1%).
- ✓ A majority feel that Columbus has just the right amount of nature areas (54.9%)
- ✓ 93.2% of respondents feel safe when visiting our parks and recreation sites
- ✓ With regard to park facilities, most respondents (76.1%) would prefer large parks like Donner or Mill Race parks.

#### Satisfaction with park activities

- ✓ Respondents were asked if they participate in any particular Parks and Rec activities. The top four responses were aquatics (53.2%), golf (48%), ice hockey/skating (42.2%), and gymnastics (22.9%). Others mentioned were soccer, youth baseball, basketball and volleyball.
- ✓ Of those programs mentioned by respondents, most scored at least 75% approval ratings, with volleyball as the highest with a near 95% approval rating. (see Figure 2, page 9 for further information)
- ✓ When asked which sports program was most important to them, respondents ranked aquatics (18.5%), golf (11.2%) and softball (10%) as their top three. Other responses can be found on page 10, table 3
- ✓ Respondents were asked if they participated in any non-sports activities sponsored by Parks and Rec. 'Special family events' ranked the highest at 54.7%, followed by 'Performing Arts/Theater' (13.7%) and 'Crafts/Special Interest Classes' (12.7%) and 'Preschool/Youth Classes' (12.4%). (See page 11, figure 4 for more details).
- ✓ When asked to rate their satisfaction with non-sports activities, most rated Day Camp (96.8%) and Performing Arts (96.4%) with the highest approval ratings. However, all programs rated extremely well (nearly 85% approval). See page 12, figure X for further details.
- ✓ Although only 9.4% of respondents report they use a park to walk or exercise a dog, over 67% believe that Parks and Rec should provide a special area for use by dogs and dog owners. (page 13)

#### Communication and media

- ✓ Respondents are more likely to look for information about Parks and Rec in the newspaper (60.7%) and fliers/brochures (43.2%) than in any other medium. Nearly 78% of respondents report they read the local newspaper regularly. 60.5 % regularly listen to local radio (WKKG ranked the highest with 28.6% of respondents listening daily).
- ✓ Most respondents (66.3%) use the Internet regularly, although 25.7% have used it to search for information regarding recreation and just 6.3% have visited our website. However, 75% of respondents indicated they would use our website to register for classes if online registration were available.
- ✓ 70% of respondents said they would recognize our logo if they saw it.
- ✓ 63.7% of respondents were NOT aware of our scholarship opportunities for low-income families.



#### General satisfaction and final comments

- ✓ 79.8% of respondents feel they are receiving value for their tax dollar from Parks and Rec.
- ✓ When asked what services/activities we should be offering that we are not already offering, most folks thought we were doing just fine. Some of the top responses were 'free concerts or musical shows' (4.5%), 'walking/jogging/fitness classes' (2.2%) and 'activities for seniors' (1.5%).
- ✓ When asked what one thing respondents would tell us to help make us better, most replied that we were 'doing a good job' (15.1%). Other comments included request for more security in the parks (10.7%), 'keep the parks clean' (7.6%), and 'they should advertise more' (4.9%).

### **3. Web Survey**

The department implemented a web survey through Zoomerang in 2006 in an effort to better serve our customers. We asked for information and comments from those who had recently enrolled in a program using our online registration system. The survey took less than 10 minutes and so far we have received close to 100 responses. Information from the survey will help us to improve our registration process and program offerings. Those responding to the survey were also encouraged to e-mail additional comments to the Marketing/Public Relations Manager for the department. Copy of request for survey participation and responses attached in Appendix I - 3.

### **4. Focus Groups**

The department hosted two Focus Groups with approximately 12 people attending each session. The sessions targeted people to attend who were identified as one of our Top 100 user families. The focus group meetings were held on Tuesday, August 8 and Thursday, August 10 to gather in depth information about how we serve our customers. This information, coupled with some of the demographic information we have gathered about programs and customers has given us some great insight into how to proceed in marketing the Department. Copy of focus group information attached in Appendix I - 4

### **5. Interviews**

Chuck Wilt, the director for the department interviewed several community leaders and stakeholders regarding the 2007-2011 Master Plan. This effort was intended to accomplish two goals. First was to familiarize them with what is going on in the department. The second goal was to meet face to face with those that have a direct impact on the department to get their input on how we are doing. The questions asked and interview results can be found in Appendix I - 5

## **Goals and Progress since 1999**

### **Operations:**

1. Seek to continuously improve operations and staff.
  - a. Schedule increases in maintenance budget with corresponding increases in facilities.
    - *Progress since 1999: There has been a concentrated effort on the part of the staff and Park Board to request additional maintenance funds from the City Council for all new facilities. This has been met with good support with the general fund operating budget increasing at a rate of 8.8% since 1999.*
  - b. Provide training that enables the staff to better perform duties and responsibilities and encourage involvement in appropriate professional organizations.
    - *Progress since 1999: We have encouraged all levels of staff to be involved in state, regional and national conferences and workshops.*
2. Maintain and improve the park system in a manner that enhances the quality of the experience while using the facility.
  - a. Make sure all facilities are maintained at a predetermined quality level that meets the needs of the users.
    - *Progress since 1999: We have established quality standards that meet the needs of users. In a 2002 survey conducted by the Indiana University Public Opinion Laboratory the department was rated by 87% of the respondents as good to excellent in terms of quality of facilities. This survey has been followed up on with other customer comment surveys and focus groups with the same result in 2006.*
  - b. Recognize the diversity of facilities and the variety of functions within the park system and strive to complement this diversity and variety.
    - *Progress since 1999: The Parks and Recreation Department has added a variety of programs and facilities. This included over 6 miles of new People Trail, new ball diamonds, soccer fields, and park development.*
  - c. Continue with annual landscape planting and maintenance program.
    - *Progress since 1999: We have continued with this program and in 2005 we formed a partnership with the 60 member Columbus in Bloom Committee and the Columbus Areas Visitors Center. These partnerships have raised community awareness of the importance of landscape plantings and maintenance. In 2006 Columbus was honored with the National America in Bloom Award.*
  - d. Preserve existing trees and other identified ecosystem whenever possible.
    - *Progress since 1999: Existing trees and ecosystems are being preserved. To increase the number of trees in the parks, in 2006 the*

*Parks Department started placing Abitibi bins in some the parks. Money is raised from the tons of paper dropped in the bins for recycling. This money goes into the new “Trees to Trees” fund in the park foundation which will go towards purchasing more trees in the parks.*

- e. Balance the cost of operations (revenue vs. expense) by programming facilities for their optimal use.
  - *Progress since 1999: The department as part of a long term strategic plan has made it a priority to make all revenue based facilities as self-sufficient as possible through diverse programming and usage.*
- f. Make sure parks are identifiable as safe havens for families and children.
  - *Progress since 1999: The department has a year round Park Patrol that works closely with the Columbus Police Department to provide safety and security in our parks. The department has implemented a criminal background check process for all volunteer coaches and paid staff who work with youth. This includes all full-time staff regardless of where they work in the department.*
3. Work with other agencies both public and semi-public including:
  - a. BCSC officials and others agencies to increase utilization of facilities for programs and activities.
    - *Progress since 1999: Both high schools use parks and recreation soccer and softball facilities. The middle schools have been using tennis and golf facilities.*
  - b. Columbus/ Bartholomew County Planning Department, to review plans for new housing additions, in order to anticipate and provide for recreational needs.
    - *Progress since 1999: Before documents are discussed at the Planning Commission Meeting, and Subdivision Review Committees they are reviewed by Parks Department Staff. Comments are sent directly to the Planning Staff and considered when making final decisions.*
4. Maintain a foundation for gifts from local citizens and organizations to increase the community's ability to meet immediate and long-range recreational needs.
  - *Progress since 1999: The Columbus Park Foundation has continued to grow and support the department with non-tax community donations. Over \$250,000 was raised for the Haw Creek People Trail Project. The foundation has a goal of establishing a long range endowment fund as part of the department's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 2007.*
5. Ensure the registration process is “user friendly.”

- *Progress since 1999: The department has added on-line registration and developed a user friendly web site. The department has plans to improve the web site in 2007.*
6. Need to begin discussion with Bartholomew County Park Board about merger, however, also continue the existing working relationship (technical information and maintenance).
    - *Progress since 1999: The county park board has several facilities, a small budget, and no staff. The county parks programs are largely run through volunteer efforts. The lack of continuity in volunteer leadership hurts the recreation provision sometimes in the county. The action plan included merger discussions as an objective. Over the years the city and county park boards have continued to work closely together. The county and city have discussed connecting city parks and county parks within the People Trails System. However, any possible merger is still several years away because of political and jurisdiction considerations. In the future, merger discussions will need to include the leaders of the city and county government.*

**Facilities:**

1. Continually evaluate existing parks and recreation facilities to determine what needs to be done to increase efficiency, make them more attractive, reduce maintenance, and increase security in the park system.
  - *Progress since 1999: The Parks Department now has a full time position based around capital projects and continually analyzing the facilities and budgeting in the projects and time frames starting with the projects that are most important. The staff is also trained to continuously be aware of the parks and facilities and do everything possible to make the process efficient.*
2. Develop a system of parks (current and undeveloped) that address the mobility and diverse interests of all age groups and is balanced between organized and informal recreation activities and active and passive activities, and develop a process for development (this may include a neighborhood council and ongoing research).
  - *Progress since 1999: The department has staff who serve on various community committees concerning this issue. The staff also as part of the department strategic plan has a team that is focusing on program development.*
3. Reserve park land in rapidly developing residential areas.
  - *Progress since 1999: The department has added People Trails in the Northbrook Park area and a new park at McCullough's Run.*
4. Preserve waterways as areas of green space. These flood plain areas will be developed with caution, under any respective guidelines, and stream banks will be stabilized to minimize erosion.

- *Progress since 1999: In 2006, the first stream bank restoration project was completed along the Flatrock River in Noblitt Park. Also from 1999-2005, McCullough's Run Park was developed along Clifty Creek. This park was developed with vegetative swales and a holding pond to help clean the water from the adjacent subdivision before it reaches the creek.*
5. Continue to complete trail system throughout the community according to the people trails master plan. Look at expanding and/or tying into the county system.
    - *Progress since 1999: The construction of the Haw Creek Trail, a 6-mile section of the people trail was installed in 2004. Planning and design are under way for the section of trail that will eventually connect downtown Columbus with the Fairgrounds and Southside School.*
  6. Work to relocate Senior Center facility for increasing older population, and look at making the facility multipurpose (theater, seniors, and art).
    - *Progress since 1999: Over the past 4 years, money has been raised and a location has been selected for the relocated Senior Center Facility, Mill Race Center. The Director of the Parks Department is the chair of the committee which was formed to carry the project from design to completion. It is hoped to complete design work in 2007 and begin construction in 2008.*
  7. Encourage property owners to donate easements or land by promoting the benefits of such a donation to the community as well as the property owner (Name preserve areas after donors).
    - *Progress since 1999: When the Haw Creek Trail was constructed in 2004 the land donations helped to make the match for the TE Grant. Also, we are in the initial phases of having land donated for one of the People Trail - Trailheads. With the future phases of the People Trail, this becomes a very critical part of making the project a reality.*

#### **Programs:**

1. Develop programs that will encourage participation by all segments of the population, including the elderly and the physically and mentally challenged.
  - *Progress since 1999: The department partners with Senior Center Services, the Bartholomew County Consolidated School Corporation, Developmental Services, Easter Seals and other such groups to provide programming. In 2006, the department partnered with the Columbus Service League and the Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation to construct the largest totally accessible playground in the state of Indiana, Freedom Field. This cost close to \$700,000 with most of the amount being donated by private foundations, businesses and individuals.*
2. Run recreation programs like a business - search for more sponsorship.



- *Progress since 1999: Each year the list of sponsors is analyzed and updated so we continually search for more sponsors and sponsorship opportunities that would help promote the Parks Department events and activities.*
3. Work with citizens and local organizations to encourage assistance and participation in the implementation of various programs.
    - *Progress since 1999: The department continues to work with other agencies in order to provide the best recreational opportunities for the citizens of Columbus. The park board and the Bartholomew County Consolidated School Corporation Board had an agreement regarding the sharing and usage of facilities and other resources for community recreation and school activities. The parks department has continued to work with the agencies such as the Visitors Center, Columbus Regional Hospital Wellness Program, Foundation for Youth, and many others. However, more needs to be done in order to increase the efficiency of service provision throughout the community. It has been suggested that a steering committee of organization leaders could be formed to increase coordination among all service providers.*
  4. Look at alternative ways of raising revenues and fostering “ownership” of park facilities by the community (neighborhood advisory groups).
    - *Progress since 1999: The department worked with the Lincoln-Central Neighborhood Center on the improvement and expansion of Ninth Street Park. The department also worked with a group of teens to build a skate park.*
  5. Use people resources (retired elderly etc.) to improve the service provision (i.e. park maintenance, programming).
    - *Progress since 1999: In 2005, Friends of the Parks was started which became the volunteer arm of the Park Foundation. In 2006, Friends of the Parks volunteers helped install a planting design, pick up trash along the trail, and assisted with other community service projects. The hope is that this volunteer resource continues to grow.*
  6. Seek to avoid duplication of resources and services. Develop efficient ways of coordinating community resources.
    - *Progress since 1999: The department is recognized as a leader in collaboration. Partnerships with the Foundation for Youth, Columbus Regional Hospital Wellness Program, the Columbus Area Arts Council, the Columbus Area Visitors Center, various youth sport organizations, etc. have resulted in sharing of financial and human resources to help provide cost effective quality services for the community.*
  7. Adapt programming to fit the recreation needs of seniors, working parents, families and those with irregular and non-traditional work schedules.

- *Progress since 1999: Programming non-park facilities at convenient times for the general public continues to be a problem.*
8. Insure that transportation is not an impediment to using park facilities or participating in park programs.
    - *Progress since 1999: The department continued its collaboration with the city bus system that provides free service to any school age child to recreation programs and facilities. The department also continued to provide bus transportation to summer playgrounds, swim programs and field trips. The department does as much as possible to make programs accessible. This is an area that still needs to have further work.*
  9. Recreational offerings should be complementary, not competitive.
    - *Progress since 1999: The department tries to complement and not compete with other like businesses.*

#### **Marketing:**

1. Aggressively get information out to people by making park and recreation information as readily accessible as possible. Use all existing information outlets (public access TV, newspaper, radio, malls, schools, workplaces, service agencies, etc.).
  - *Progress since 1999: A department marketing plan was developed in 2006 to complement the increase in newspaper and radio advertising. Cross marketing with other agencies and department areas along with a new web site has also been a major improvement.*
2. Coordinate program activities to complement annual social activities, architectural and historical events.
  - *Progress since 1999: The department partners with community agencies on these type of events.*
3. Continue scheduling a variety of state and area activities in Columbus.
  - *Progress since 1999: The city has become a major center for sport tournament events with over 60 events and 34,000 visitors annually. These tournaments are a result of the department partnership with the Columbus Area Visitors Center and local, state, regional and national sport governing bodies. The department has built and improved their facilities for local use and has at the same time made them attractive to bring in these sport tournament events. Columbus has been the site for the United States Specialty Sports Association Girls Fast Pitch Softball World Series since 2004.*
4. Use all community resources to better deliver services, market programs, provide information and increase self-sufficiency.



- *Progress since 1999: The department cross markets with many different recreation agencies and has included many of them in the summer and winter fun guides that are produced annually and mailed to all households within Bartholomew County each summer and fall.*
5. Coordinate events with the Visitors Center.
    - *Progress since 1999: The department and the Columbus Area Visitors Center have become key partners for sport event tourism with over 60 events and 34,000 visitors annually.*
  6. Continually research and implement different techniques to publicize programs, activities, and events sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department.
    - *Progress since 1999: The department has a marketing committee which meets regularly to come up with new ways to promote and publicize the programs, events and activities.*
  7. Use logos at parks and include in information materials to better identify accessible facilities.
    - *Progress since 1999: New signage is being installed at park locations through our annual capital improvement project program. The department continued to use logos at parks and include information materials to better identify accessible facilities.*
  8. Include park material information in other targeted publications.
    - *Progress since 1999: The department includes park information in the Foundation for Youth monthly newsletter, the Republic newspaper, and other such targeted publications.*

## **Park Board Priorities**

It is the Board's responsibility to delineate the department's focus as a public agency. With input from staff and the public, in combination with the financial perspective, the Board has determined the goals and priorities for 2007-2011. It is important to note that while public input can not be overlooked, it is not the only consideration. Financial constraints and lack of overall support are also important.

Goals noted earlier in the plan that have not been completed will continue to be worked on with the items listed below identified as priorities for 2007-2011:

### **Operations**

- Review and continuously improve maintenance operations.
- Staff and processes to reflect the financial and personnel needs that are required with increases in facilities.
- Continue to promote Columbus Park Foundation involvement in our community and Friends of the Parks.
- Research the recreational needs of the community so all recreational programming and facilities are developed to be responsive to citizen needs.
- Continue to expand use of user fees and sponsorships by private businesses and corporations to supplement tax funds for facilities and programs.

### **Facilities**

- Evaluate the status of undeveloped park land and determine process for development.
- Continue to evaluate existing parks and recreation facilities to determine what needs to be done to increase efficiency, make them more attractive, reduce maintenance and increase security in the park system.
- Develop a system of parks that addresses the mobility and diverse interests of all age groups and is balanced between organized and informal recreation activities, and active and passive activities.
- Preserve waterways as areas of green space. These flood plain areas will be developed with caution, under any respective guidelines, and stream banks will be stabilized to minimize erosion.
- Continue to complete trail system throughout the community according to the people trail master plan.

- Continue participation in the 2020 Downtown Development committee working with the community on decisions regarding future development of the Commons and the Senior Center.

### **Programs**

- Develop Recreation Program Master Plan
  - . Grow fee based programs
    - Goal to increase market share in 3-11 year old age group
    - Evaluate opportunities for 12-15 year age group
    - Evaluate adult programming opportunities
    - Establish and involve advisory groups
- Develop programs that will encourage participation by all segments of the population, including the elderly and the physically and mentally challenged.
- Develop balanced use of facilities between organized and informal recreation activities, active and passive activities.
- Seek to avoid duplication of resources and services. Develop efficient ways of coordinating community resources.
- Ensure that transportation is not a barrier to using park facilities or participating in programs.

### **Marketing**

- Implement Parks and Recreation Marketing Plan.
  - . Work with managers to craft area specific market plan using guidelines from Department plan
- Develop customer retention process.
- Enforce and educate associated user groups about the department's advertising policy.
- Evaluate effectiveness of department's message to target age groups/sub groups.
  - . Contract with firm to assist with redesign of department's website
  - . Implement better collection and utilization of customer e-mail addresses

### **2007-2011 Capital Budget Priorities**

- People Trail Development and Maintenance – Continue development and maintenance

of people trails system.

- Stream Bank Erosion Control
- Maintain existing facilities at a quality standard to keep operating costs down.

### **Implementation of Action Plan**

The priority issues facing the City of Columbus Park Board have been presented; the final task remaining before the Board is to devise a “blueprint” which addresses these important items. The action plan section of this report is intended to do this. It details the manner in which the priority issues will be resolved during the next five years taking into account cost, funding and timing considerations. The Action Plan Schedule follows. (Also see CIP in Appendix J)

### **Funding Considerations**

Funding for action plan items will be primarily dependent on the City’s Capital Improvements Program. However, funding through the capital budget may become limited. Cooperative efforts will be needed in the future as well as seeking alternative methods of fundraising. Special projects may require donations (in-kind and monetary) to fund their efforts.

## **Action Plan**

| <b>ACTION PLAN SCHEDULE</b>                           |             |                       |                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>PROJECT</b>                                        | <b>YEAR</b> | <b>ESTIMATED COST</b> | <b>FUNDING SOURCE</b> |
| Clifty Park Line Fence Installation                   | 2007        | \$10,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Clifty Skate Park Repairs and Maintenance             | 2007        | \$5,000.00            | CIP                   |
| Donner Aquatics Pipe Repair                           | 2007        | \$15,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Greenbelt Clubhouse Window Repair                     | 2007        | \$8,000.00            | CIP                   |
| Greenbelt Golf Course Cart Path Repair                | 2007        | \$10,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Hamilton Center Cedar Shake Roof Replacement          | 2007        | \$35,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Lincoln buy out Batting Cage Lease                    | 2007        | \$28,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Lincoln Diamond #8 Lights                             | 2007        | \$25,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Lincoln Softball Sod Installation                     | 2007        | \$8,000.00            | CIP                   |
| Mill Race Park Amphitheater Staging Area Installation | 2007        | \$10,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Mill Race Park Road and Walkway Drainage Repair       | 2007        | \$15,000.00           | CIP                   |
| New Park Entrance Signage Installation                | 2007        | \$10,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Park Operation New Overhead Door Installation         | 2007        | \$21,000.00           | CIP                   |
| People Trail Repair                                   | 2007        | \$40,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Softball and Baseball Netting Installation            | 2007        | \$15,000.00           | CIP                   |
| <b>SUBTOTAL</b>                                       | <b>2007</b> | <b>\$281,000.00</b>   |                       |



### ACTION PLAN SCHEDULE

| PROJECT                                        | YEAR        | ESTIMATED COST        | FUNDING SOURCE |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Blackwell Restroom Renovations                 | 2008        | \$75,000.00           | CIP            |
| Blackwell Park Fencing                         | 2008        | \$15,000.00           | CIP            |
| Blackwell Irrigation Head Replacement          | 2008        | \$10,000.00           | CIP            |
| Blackwell Landscaping                          | 2008        | \$10,000.00           | CIP            |
| Blackwell Bleacher Pads                        | 2008        | \$10,000.00           | CIP            |
| Clifty Realign Road and Parking                | 2008        | \$33,000.00           | CIP            |
| Clifty Skate Park Repairs                      | 2008        | \$5,000.00            | CIP            |
| Clifty Skate Park Lighting                     | 2008        | \$12,500.00           | CIP            |
| Clifty New Maintenance Building Construction   | 2008        | \$80,000.00           | CIP            |
| Clifty Utility Infrastructure Improvements     | 2008        | \$20,000.00           | CIP            |
| Clifty Road Drainage Solution                  | 2008        | \$5,000.00            | CIP            |
| Clifty Fast Pitch Restroom Construction        | 2008        | \$50,000.00           | CIP            |
| Clifty Bleacher Pads                           | 2008        | \$20,000.00           | CIP            |
| Gymnastics Center Climbing Wall Construction   | 2008        | \$40,000.00           | CIP            |
| Commons Paint Interior                         | 2008        | \$40,000.00           | CIP            |
| Donner Curb Replacement and Walk Installation  | 2008        | \$15,000.00           | CIP            |
| Donner Aquatics Locker Room Repairs            | 2008        | \$70,000.00           | CIP            |
| Donner Aquatics Circulation Pumps              | 2008        | \$30,000.00           | CIP            |
| Donner Aquatics Umbrellas                      | 2008        | \$5,000.00            | CIP            |
| Donner Garage Rehab- Environmental             | 2008        | \$10,000.00           | CIP            |
| Donner Playground Resurfacing                  | 2008        | \$30,000.00           | CIP            |
| Everroad Park Development                      | 2008        | \$25,000.00           | CIP            |
| East High School Pool- Window Renovation       | 2008        | \$30,000.00           | CIP            |
| Greenbelt Cart Path Repair                     | 2008        | \$10,000.00           | CIP            |
| Harrison Ridge 2-5 year Playground             | 2008        | \$25,000.00           | CIP            |
| IUPUC- volleyball courts                       | 2008        | \$40,000.00           | CIP            |
| Hamilton Center Compressor Replacement         | 2008        | \$30,000.00           | CIP            |
| Hamilton Center Roof Replacement- Large Rink   | 2008        | \$35,000.00           | CIP            |
| Hamilton Center Roof Replacement- Small Rink   | 2008        | \$70,000.00           | CIP            |
| Hamilton Center Roof Replacement- Warming Room | 2008        | \$40,000.00           | CIP            |
| Hamilton Center Circular Drive                 | 2008        | \$50,000.00           | CIP            |
| Hamilton Center New Dasher Boards              | 2008        | \$75,000.00           | CIP            |
| Lincoln Resurface Basketball Court             | 2008        | \$20,000.00           | CIP            |
| Lincoln Softball Sun Shelters                  | 2008        | \$17,000.00           | CIP            |
| Lincoln Softball Sod Installation              | 2008        | \$6,000.00            | CIP            |
| Par 3 Fence Replacement                        | 2008        | \$20,000.00           | CIP            |
| Par 3 Cart Storage                             | 2008        | \$60,000.00           | CIP            |
| Park Operations Surge Protection               | 2008        | \$20,000.00           | CIP            |
| Park Operations Sidewalk                       | 2008        | \$17,000.00           | CIP            |
| Park Operations Security Cameras               | 2008        | \$18,000.00           | CIP            |
| Park Operations Concrete Curbing               | 2008        | \$10,500.00           | CIP            |
| People Trail Repair                            | 2008        | \$40,000.00           | CIP            |
| People Trail Development                       | 2008        | \$125,000.00          | CIP            |
| New Park Entrance Signage Installation         | 2008        | \$10,000.00           | CIP            |
| Streambank Stabilization Work                  | 2008        | \$50,000.00           | CIP            |
| Tree Installation                              | 2008        | \$20,000.00           | CIP            |
| <b>SUBTOTAL</b>                                | <b>2008</b> | <b>\$1,428,000.00</b> |                |



| <b>ACTION PLAN SCHEDULE</b>                           |             |                       |                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>PROJECT</b>                                        | <b>YEAR</b> | <b>ESTIMATED COST</b> | <b>FUNDING SOURCE</b> |
| Blackwell Field Reconfiguration/ Parking Lot/ Shelter | 2009        | \$50,000.00           | CIP                   |
| City Cemetery Columbarium                             | 2009        | \$200,000.00          | CIP                   |
| Clifty Bleacher Pads                                  | 2009        | \$20,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Clifty Fast Pitch 4-Plex Lighting                     | 2009        | \$280,000.00          | CIP                   |
| Clifty Fence Fabric Replacement                       | 2009        | \$15,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Clifty Skate Park Repairs                             | 2009        | \$5,000.00            | CIP                   |
| Clifty Utility Infrastructure Improvements            | 2009        | \$20,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Commons Outdoor Lighting                              | 2009        | \$30,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Commons Playground Renovation                         | 2009        | \$200,000.00          | CIP                   |
| Commons Structural Curtain Wall                       | 2009        | \$100,000.00          | CIP                   |
| Donner Aquatics Filters (10)                          | 2009        | \$30,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Donner Aquatics Floats                                | 2009        | \$7,500.00            | CIP                   |
| Donner Aquatics Slide                                 | 2009        | \$70,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Donner Aquatics Umbrellas                             | 2009        | \$5,000.00            | CIP                   |
| Donner Center Restroom Renovation                     | 2009        | \$35,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Donner Curb Replacement and Walk Installation         | 2009        | \$15,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Donner Garage Rehab Environmental / Renovation        | 2009        | \$75,000.00           | CIP                   |
| East High School Pool Window Replacement              | 2009        | \$30,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Greenbelt Cart Path Repairs                           | 2009        | \$10,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Gymnastic Center Equipment                            | 2009        | \$25,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Hamilton Center Compressor Replacement                | 2009        | \$30,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Hamilton Center Heat Pump Replacement                 | 2009        | \$52,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Hamilton Center Interior Ceiling Painting             | 2009        | \$50,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Hamilton Center Small Rink Replace Glass              | 2009        | \$25,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Lincoln Softball Sod Installation                     | 2009        | \$5,000.00            | CIP                   |
| Lincoln Softball Sun Shelters                         | 2009        | \$7,000.00            | CIP                   |
| Lincoln Shelter                                       | 2009        | \$25,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Lincoln Landscaping Inside 4-Plex                     | 2009        | \$15,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Lincoln Tennis Court Fence and Practice Wall          | 2009        | \$40,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Mill Race North Pond Seating                          | 2009        | \$3,500.00            | CIP                   |
| Morningside Playground                                | 2009        | \$25,000.00           | CIP                   |
| McCullough's Run Park Development                     | 2009        | \$25,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Noblitt Park Development                              | 2009        | \$25,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Park Operations Cold Storage                          | 2009        | \$200,000.00          | CIP                   |
| Pence Park Repair and Paint Shelter                   | 2009        | \$2,500.00            | CIP                   |
| People Trail Repair                                   | 2009        | \$45,000.00           | CIP                   |
| People Trail Development                              | 2009        | \$50,000.00           | CIP                   |
| New Park Entrance Signage Installation                | 2009        | \$10,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Sealing and Striping Parking Lots                     | 2009        | \$10,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Streambank Stabilization Work                         | 2009        | \$50,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Tree Installation                                     | 2009        | \$20,000.00           | CIP                   |
| <b>SUBTOTAL</b>                                       | <b>2009</b> | <b>\$1,938,500.00</b> |                       |



| ACTION PLAN SCHEDULE                                  |             |                       |                |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| PROJECT                                               | YEAR        | ESTIMATED COST        | FUNDING SOURCE |
| Blackwell Field Reconfiguration/ Parking Lot/ Shelter | 2010        | \$50,000.00           | CIP            |
| City Cemetery Road Overlay                            | 2010        | \$20,000.00           | CIP            |
| Clifty Skate Park Repairs                             | 2010        | \$5,000.00            | CIP            |
| Clifty Utility Infrastructure Improvements            | 2010        | \$20,000.00           | CIP            |
| Clifty Shelter Repairs                                | 2010        | \$5,000.00            | CIP            |
| Clifty Volleyball Fence                               | 2010        | \$8,000.00            | CIP            |
| Clifty Playground Renovation                          | 2010        | \$25,000.00           | CIP            |
| Clifty Restroom Renovation                            | 2010        | \$10,000.00           | CIP            |
| Clifty Pavement Crack Sealing                         | 2010        | \$5,000.00            | CIP            |
| Clifty Fabric Fence Replacement                       | 2010        | \$15,000.00           | CIP            |
| Clifty Landscaping                                    | 2010        | \$15,000.00           | CIP            |
| Commons Chiller and Cooling Tower Replacement         | 2010        | \$250,000.00          | CIP            |
| Donner Center Window and Door Repair                  | 2010        | \$10,000.00           | CIP            |
| Donner Curb Replacement and Walk Installation         | 2010        | \$15,000.00           | CIP            |
| Donner Aquatics Sand Volleyball Court                 | 2010        | \$20,000.00           | CIP            |
| Donner Aquatics Heaters (2)                           | 2010        | \$58,000.00           | CIP            |
| Donner Aquatics Umbrellas                             | 2010        | \$5,000.00            | CIP            |
| Donner Garage Rehab Environmental / Renovation        | 2010        | \$75,000.00           | CIP            |
| East High School Pool Window Replacement              | 2010        | \$30,000.00           | CIP            |
| Greenbelt Cart Path Repair                            | 2010        | \$10,000.00           | CIP            |
| Hamilton Center Compressor Replacement                | 2010        | \$30,000.00           | CIP            |
| Hamilton Center North Door Replacement                | 2010        | \$20,000.00           | CIP            |
| Hamilton Center Window Replacement                    | 2010        | \$30,000.00           | CIP            |
| Lincoln Resurface Tennis Courts                       | 2010        | \$28,000.00           | CIP            |
| Lincoln Park Sun Shelters                             | 2010        | \$7,000.00            | CIP            |
| Lincoln Park Playground Resurfacing                   | 2010        | \$85,000.00           | CIP            |
| Lincoln Fence Repairs                                 | 2010        | \$10,000.00           | CIP            |
| Mill Race North Pond Seating                          | 2010        | \$3,500.00            | CIP            |
| McCullough's Run Park Development                     | 2010        | \$25,000.00           | CIP            |
| Northbrook Park Development                           | 2010        | \$50,000.00           | CIP            |
| Par 3 Pond Renovation                                 | 2010        | \$15,000.00           | CIP            |
| People Trail Repair                                   | 2010        | \$45,000.00           | CIP            |
| People Trail Development                              | 2010        | \$50,000.00           | CIP            |
| Richards Tennis Court Resurfacing                     | 2010        | \$20,000.00           | CIP            |
| New Park Entrance Signage Installation                | 2010        | \$10,000.00           | CIP            |
| Streambank Stabilization Work                         | 2010        | \$50,000.00           | CIP            |
| Tree Installation                                     | 2010        | \$20,000.00           | CIP            |
| <b>SUBTOTAL</b>                                       | <b>2010</b> | <b>\$1,139,500.00</b> |                |

| <b>ACTION PLAN SCHEDULE</b>                    |             |                       |                       |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>PROJECT</b>                                 | <b>YEAR</b> | <b>ESTIMATED COST</b> | <b>FUNDING SOURCE</b> |
| Blackwell Restroom Renovations / Storage       | 2011        | \$50,000.00           | CIP                   |
| City Cemetery Fence                            | 2011        | \$20,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Clifty Baseball 4-Plex Irrigation              | 2011        | \$50,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Clifty Baseball 4-Plex Lighting                | 2011        | \$280,000.00          | CIP                   |
| Clifty Skate Park Repairs                      | 2011        | \$5,000.00            | CIP                   |
| Gymnastics Center Equipment                    | 2011        | \$25,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Commons Structural and Curtain Wall            | 2011        | \$100,000.00          | CIP                   |
| Donner Center Window and Door Repair           | 2011        | \$10,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Donner Curb Replacement and Walk Installation  | 2011        | \$15,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Donner Aquatics Floats                         | 2011        | \$7,500.00            | CIP                   |
| Donner Aquatics Umbrellas                      | 2011        | \$5,000.00            | CIP                   |
| Donner Aquatics Deck                           | 2011        | \$50,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Donner Garage Rehab Environmental / Renovation | 2011        | \$75,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Donner Resurface Basketball Court              | 2011        | \$18,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Greenbelt Cart Path Repair                     | 2011        | \$10,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Hamilton Center Compressor Replacement         | 2011        | \$30,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Lincoln Tennis Court Fencing Replacement       | 2011        | \$15,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Lincoln Sun Shelters                           | 2011        | \$7,000.00            | CIP                   |
| Mill Race Restroom Steel Repair                | 2011        | \$10,000.00           | CIP                   |
| McCullough's Run Park Development              | 2011        | \$25,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Northbrook Park Development                    | 2011        | \$50,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Par 3 Pond Renovation                          | 2011        | \$15,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Par 3 Parking Lot Sealing                      | 2011        | \$2,000.00            | CIP                   |
| Par 3 Irrigation                               | 2011        | \$150,000.00          | CIP                   |
| People Trail Repair                            | 2011        | \$45,000.00           | CIP                   |
| People Trail Development                       | 2011        | \$50,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Richards Tennis Court Fence Replacement        | 2011        | \$15,000.00           | CIP                   |
| New Park Entrance Signage Installation         | 2011        | \$10,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Sealing and Striping Parking Lots              | 2011        | \$10,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Streambank Stabilization Work                  | 2011        | \$50,000.00           | CIP                   |
| Tree Installation                              | 2011        | \$20,000.00           | CIP                   |
| <b>SUBTOTAL</b>                                | <b>2011</b> | <b>\$1,224,500.00</b> |                       |
| <b>TOTAL 2007-2011</b>                         |             | <b>\$5,982,500.00</b> |                       |



## **Appendixes**

## **Appendix A**

### **Map – Planning Area**

# LOCATION / PLANNING AREA MAP

## APPENDIX A



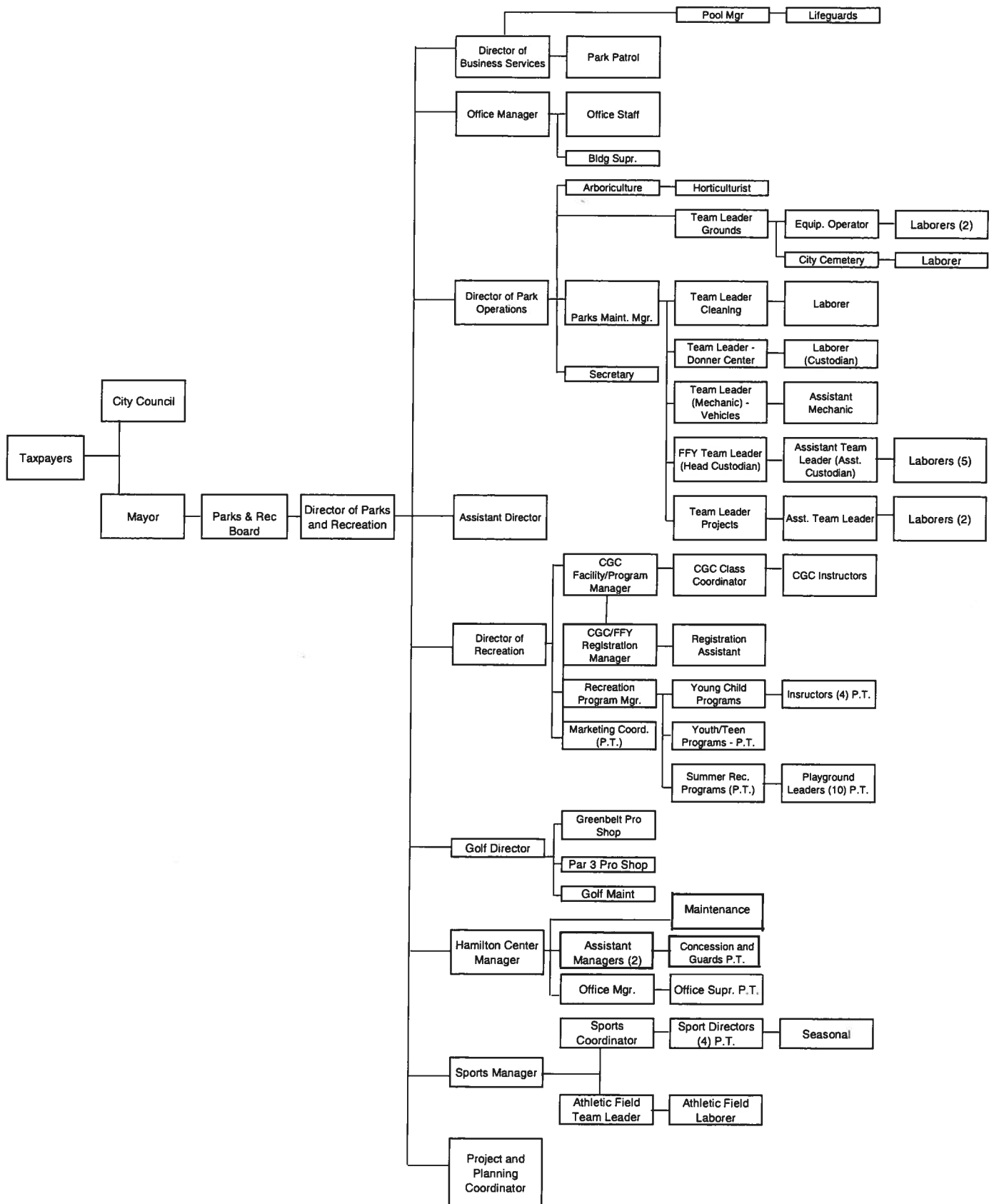
Planning Area - Columbus / Bartholomew County





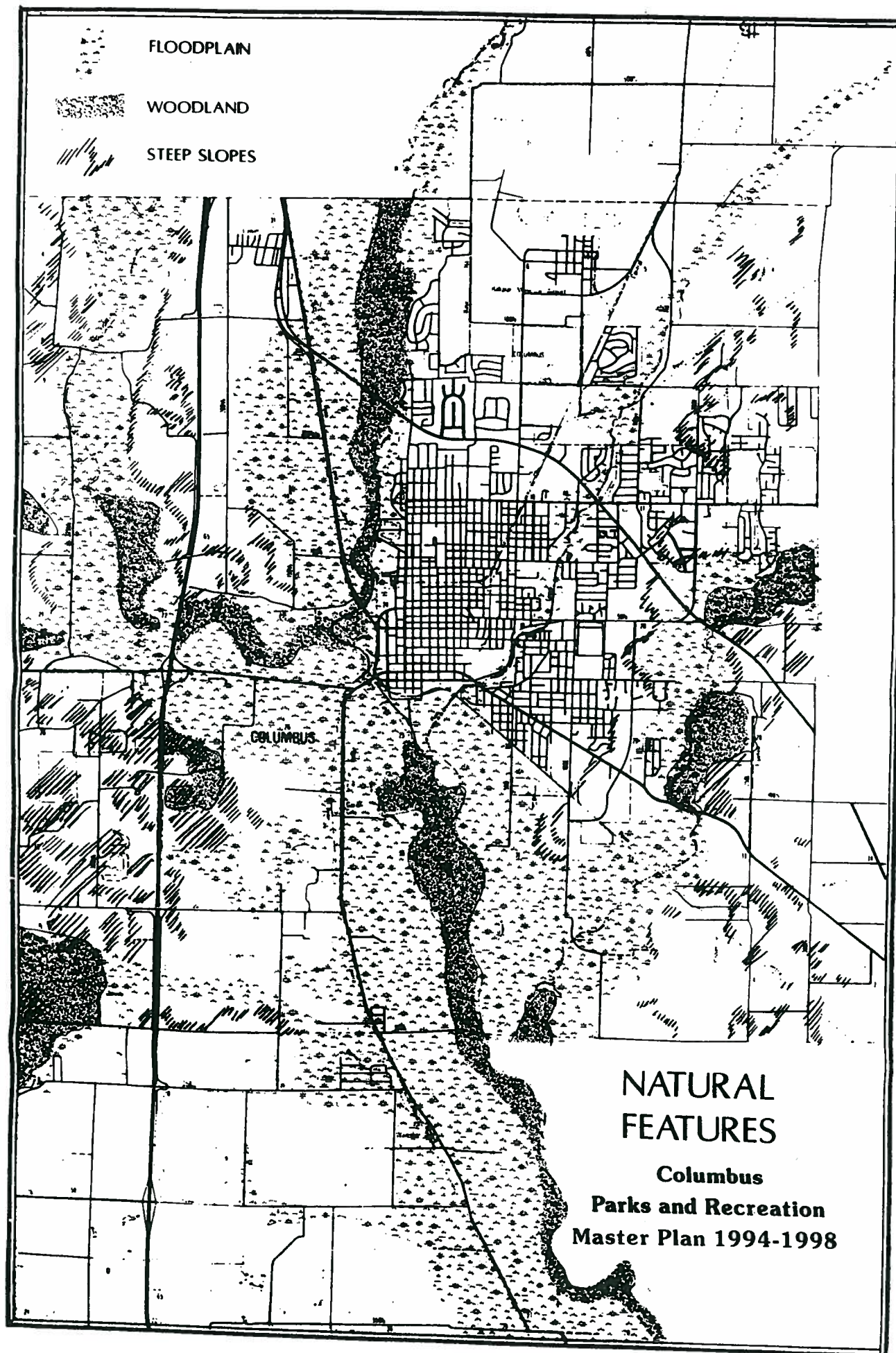
## **Appendix B Organization Chart**

# **Columbus Parks and Recreation Organization Chart**



## **Appendix C**

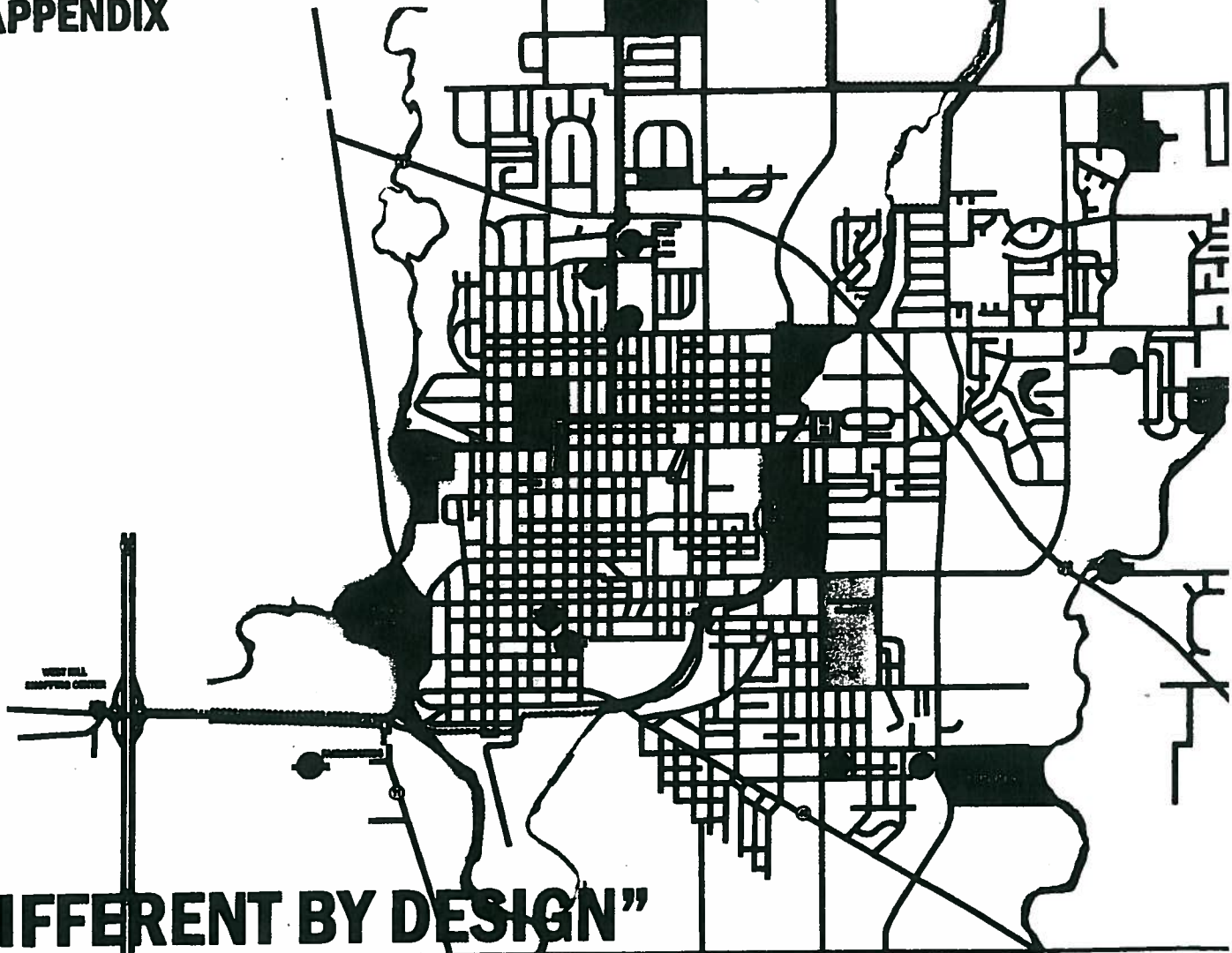
### **Community Information**





# **Parks and Schools of Columbus**

## **APPENDIX**



## **Appendix D**

### **Facilities**



[illegible]

**E - Existing Facility**  
**P - Proposed Facility**  
**1 - No. Existing Facilities**

**Appendix E**  
**Memorandum of Understanding**  
**(sample agreement)**



**Lincoln Center Skate Club –  
Columbus Parks and Recreation Board**

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

Effective January 1, 2003, and remains in effect until December 31, 2008

**Purpose**

To foster the ongoing partnership between Lincoln Center Skate Club (LCSC) and Columbus Parks and Recreation Board (CPRB),

**Preamble**

This memorandum of understanding defines the partnership between LCSC and CPRB and the principles and values upon which it is based.

This Memorandum of Understanding is designed to be a multi-year agreement that may be refined and updated as needed. The agreement should be reevaluated in five years to reassess the partnership and determine whether it should be modified.

**Desired Results**

- Trust-based, good faith, long-term relationship that is mutually beneficial and supportive
- Partnership committed to the success of both organizations and a common agreed upon vision and purpose
- Positive public messages about figure skating, recreation and opportunities in the community

**Principles and Values**

LCSC and CPRB leaders and staff pledge to do the following:

- Support the partner organization's leaders and staff and send positive public messages about the partnership.
- Portray the other organization as a partner that is interdependent in service to the community.
- Operate interdependently in establishing goals, strategies and implementation plans through the participation of representatives and through staff facilitation.
- Operate in a collaborative, coordinated, communicative manner in carrying out respective plans and activities.
- Act in good faith and take positive steps to resolve issues as they arise.
- Give full credit for partner's role in projects and initiatives.

**Responsibility of the Columbus Parks and Recreation Board and staff:**

1. Reach agreement on this with our study committee.

**Responsibility of the Lincoln Center Skate Club:**

1. Reach agreement on this with our study committee.

**Liaison and Communications**

The Hamilton Center Ice Arena Manager will attend LCSC Board Meetings and represent the CPRB and will serve as liaison to the respective boards and will be the conduit for sharing information and communications.

Correspondence distributed by each agency shall be reviewed by the other agency prior to distribution.

**Amendments**

This memorandum may be revised with appropriate notice to the other organization and the subsequent approval of both boards.

The undersigned Presidents of LCSC and CPRB certify that the respective Boards of the LCSC and the CPRB adopted the foregoing Memorandum of Understanding on the dates indicated below.

*Doni D. Whaley*  
LCSC President

2/28/03  
Date of Board Approval

*Paula J. N. Jackey 2/28/03*  
LCSC Secretary

2/28/03  
Date of Board Approval

*Chuck Colglazier*  
CPRB President

2/11/03  
Date of Board Approval

## **Appendix F**

### **Golf**



**Columbus Parks and Recreation  
Golf Course Rounds  
2002 - 2006**

|                              | 2002   | 2003   | 2004   | 2005   | 2006   |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| <b>Greenbelt Golf Course</b> |        |        |        |        |        |
| Golf Rounds                  | 19,191 | 18,690 | 20,563 | 20,929 | 21,206 |
| Jr. Golf                     | 68     | 66     | 61     | 63     | 61     |
|                              |        |        |        |        |        |
| <b>Par 3 Golf Course</b>     |        |        |        |        |        |
| Golf Rounds                  | 13,175 | 14,049 | 13,211 | 14,887 | 12,695 |

## **Appendix G**

### **Programs**

| <b>Facility/Activity</b>                                                                           | <b>2002</b> | <b>2003</b> | <b>2004</b> | <b>2005</b> | <b>2006*</b> |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--|
| <b>Donner Aquatic Center</b>                                                                       |             |             |             |             |              |  |
| General Admission                                                                                  | 25,714      | 21,537      | 20,223      | 23,600      | 19,746       |  |
| Season Tickets Admissions                                                                          | 5,038       | 4,470       | 5,638       | 5,174       | 4,007        |  |
| Free Swim Sessions/Passes                                                                          | 12,830      | 9,738       | 8,958       | 13,565      | 9,967        |  |
| Masters Swim                                                                                       | 1,687       | 1,405       | 1,509       | 1,644       | 1,393        |  |
| Rental Groups                                                                                      | 5,678       | 2,310       | 3,967       | 5,278       | 4,837        |  |
| Total                                                                                              |             |             |             |             |              |  |
| *Three swim meets held with pool closed 2 normal weekends resulting in decreased attendance/income |             |             |             |             |              |  |
|                                                                                                    |             |             |             |             |              |  |
|                                                                                                    | <b>2002</b> | <b>2003</b> | <b>2004</b> | <b>2005</b> | <b>2006</b>  |  |
| <b>Columbus Gymnastic Center</b>                                                                   |             |             |             |             |              |  |
| Group classes                                                                                      | 2,055       | 2,022       | 2,259       | 1,840       | 1,329        |  |
| Competitive Cheer Team (org 2003)                                                                  |             | 308         | 564         | 456         | 517          |  |
|                                                                                                    |             |             |             |             |              |  |
|                                                                                                    |             |             |             |             |              |  |
|                                                                                                    | <b>2002</b> | <b>2003</b> | <b>2004</b> | <b>2005</b> | <b>2006</b>  |  |
| <b>Hamilton Center Ice Arena</b>                                                                   |             |             |             |             |              |  |
| Public Sessions                                                                                    | 10,512      | 8,064       | 7,572       | 8,034       | 10,002       |  |
| Group Lessons/Intro to Hockey Classes                                                              | 1,028       | 892         | 920         | 839         |              |  |

## **Appendix H**

### **Population Analysis**

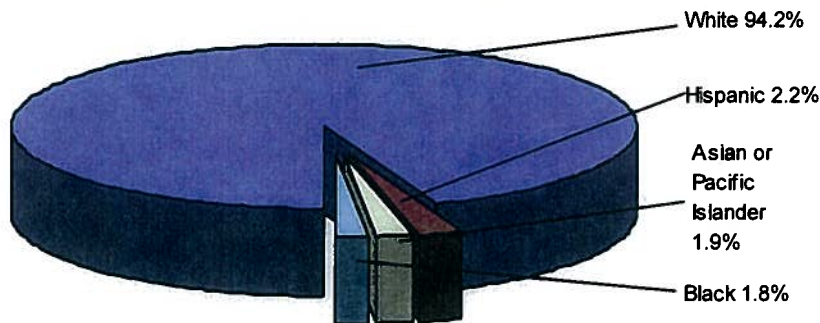
## POPULATION GROWTH

| Year | City of Columbus | Bartholomew County |
|------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1950 | 18,370           | 36,108             |
| 1960 | 20,778           | 48,198             |
| 1970 | 27,141           | 57,022             |
| 1980 | 30,614           | 65,088             |
| 1990 | 31,802           | 63,657             |
| 2000 | 39,059           | 71,435             |
| 2004 | 39,251           | 72,987             |

Source: Stats Indiana

## POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

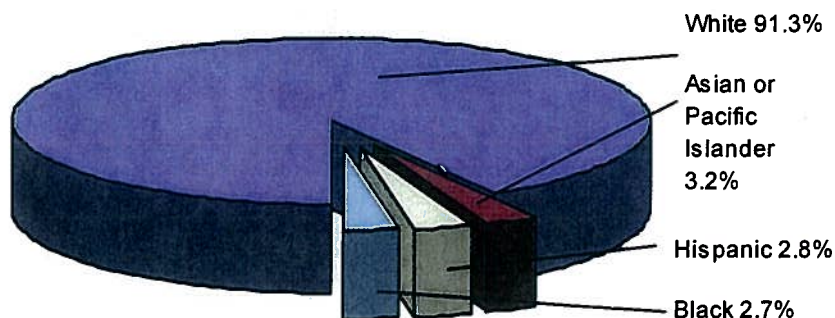
**ETHNIC MAKE UP**  
Bartholomew County



**GENDER MAKE UP**  
Bartholomew County

Male.....49%  
Female.....51%

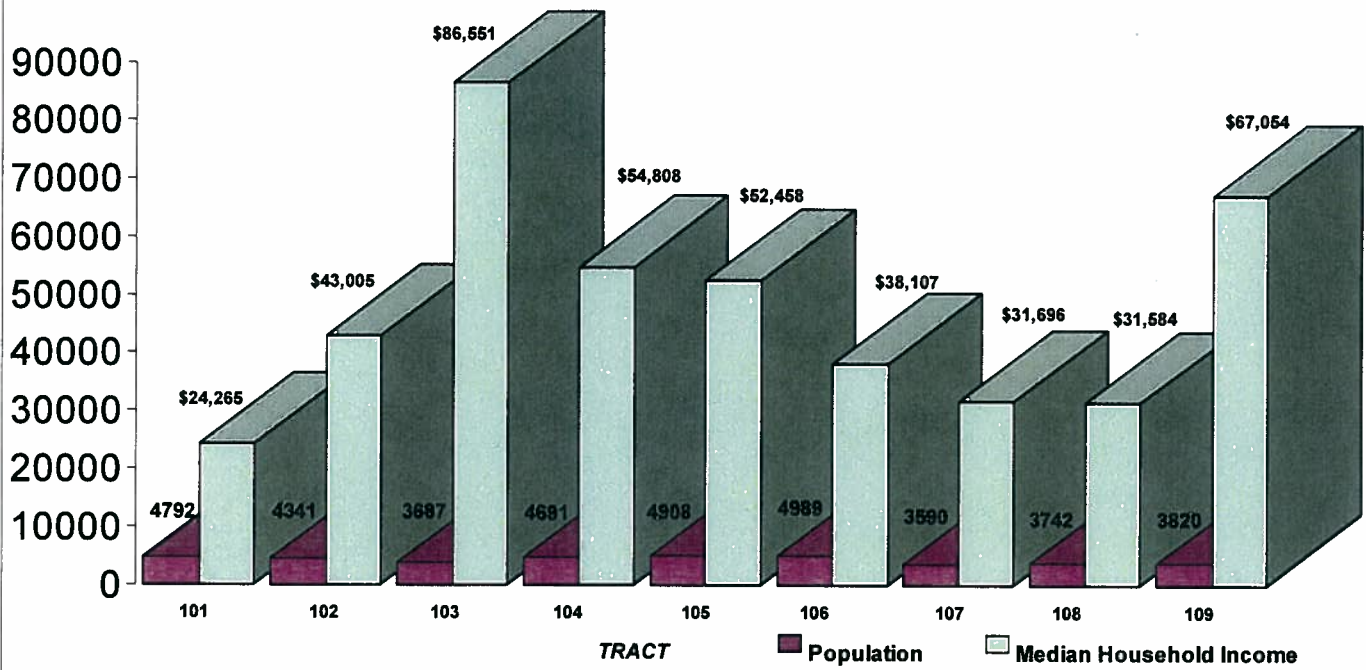
**ETHNIC MAKE UP**  
City of Columbus



**GENDER MAKE UP**  
City of Columbus

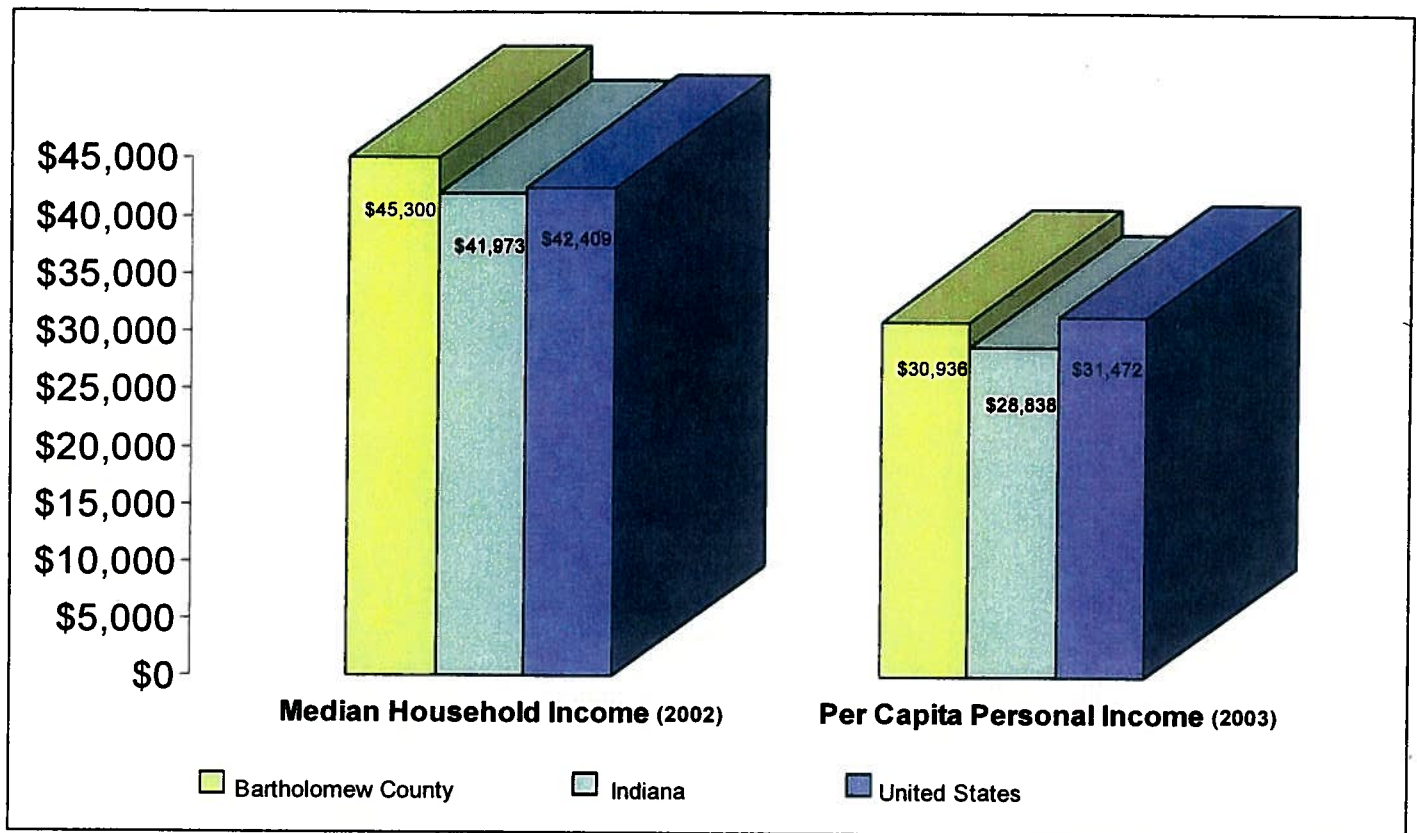
Male.....48%  
Female.....52%

### Income by Census Tract





## INCOME



Source: STATS Indiana ([stats.indiana.edu](http://stats.indiana.edu))

## AGE DISTRIBUTION

**BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY**

|                      |        |
|----------------------|--------|
| Under 5 years .....  | 5,260  |
| 5 to 9 years .....   | 5,441  |
| 10 to 14 years ..... | 5,300  |
| 15 to 19 years ..... | 4,441  |
| 20 to 24 years ..... | 4,000  |
| 25 to 34 years ..... | 9,928  |
| 35 to 44 years ..... | 11,253 |
| 45 to 54 years ..... | 10,136 |
| 55 to 59 years ..... | 3,977  |
| 60 to 64 years ..... | 3,047  |
| 65 to 74 years ..... | 4,720  |
| 75 to 84 years ..... | 2,973  |
| 85+ years .....      | 959    |

**MEDIAN AGE .....** 36.2 years

**CITY OF COLUMBUS**

|                      |       |
|----------------------|-------|
| Under 5 years .....  | 2,898 |
| 5 to 9 years .....   | 2,924 |
| 10 to 14 years ..... | 2,672 |
| 15 to 19 years ..... | 2,367 |
| 20 to 24 years ..... | 2,299 |
| 25 to 34 years ..... | 5,552 |
| 35 to 44 years ..... | 5,981 |
| 45 to 54 years ..... | 5,383 |
| 55 to 59 years ..... | 2,024 |
| 60 to 64 years ..... | 1,593 |
| 65 to 74 years ..... | 2,714 |
| 75 to 84 years ..... | 1,954 |
| 85+ years .....      | 698   |

**MEDIAN AGE .....** 36.4 years

Source: Columbus City Planning

## **Appendix I**

### **Master Plan Meetings – Appendix I – 1**

**Master Plan Meeting  
07-06-06**

**Attendees: C.W. Wilt, N. Armuth, K. McPeck and approximately 50 neighbors  
of Ninth Street Park**

- **Discussed vandalism issues and need for more help from neighbors**
- **Discussed partnership with Lincoln Central Neighborhood Center**
- **Ideas for future development**
- **Sandbox redesign**

## **Columbus Parks and Recreation Department**

**You are invited to participate in a public meeting to share ideas for the Columbus Parks and Recreation 2007-2011 Master Plan.**

**What is the focus of Columbus Parks and Recreation for the next 5 years?**

**Two public meetings are scheduled to seek public input for the *Master Plan Update*. Those who cannot attend are invited to contact Chuck Wilt at 376-2680 to share comments.**

**The master plan includes priorities, goals and objectives established for the next five years for the department.**

**Please plan to attend one of these sessions:**

**Wednesday, October 25  
5:30pm  
Donner Center**

**Wednesday, November 8  
5:30pm  
Donner Center**





**Columbus Parks and Recreation Department**

**You are invited to participate in  
a public meeting to share ideas for the  
Columbus Parks and Recreation  
2007-2011 Master Plan.**

**Wednesday, November 8  
5:30pm  
Donner Center**

**The public meeting is being held to  
seek input to establish goals and  
objectives for the  
*2007-2011 Master Plan Update*  
for the department.**

**Those who cannot attend are invited to  
contact Chuck Wilt at 376-2680  
to share comments.**



**Columbus Parks and Recreation  
Master Plan Update  
2007-2011**

**Agenda**

- 1. Progress since last plan**
- 2. Mission/Vision/Critical Success Factors**
- 3. 2007-2011 Goal Priorities**
- 4. 2007-2011**
  - **Capital Projects Priorities**
  - **Recreation Program Priorities**
  - **New ideas being considered**
- 5. Comments/ideas**
- 6. Next Steps**

**Master Plan Meeting  
10-25-06**

**Attendees:** Chuck Wilt, Carol Valentine, Ryan Brand, Amy Macy, Ed Curtin and  
Cindy Brummett

**Agenda same for 10-25 and 11-8-2006 meetings.**

**(Copy of Master Plan presentation for meeting attached)**

**Columbus Parks and Recreation  
Master Plan Update  
2007-2011  
Agenda**

1. Progress since last plan
2. Mission/Vision/Critical Success Factors
3. 2007-2011 Goal Priorities
4. 2007-2011
  - Capital Projects Priorities
  - Recreation Program Priorities
  - New ideas being considered
5. Comments/ideas
6. Next Steps

## **Progress since last Master Plan**

### ▪ **Maintenance**

- \* Restructured staff and processes to improve and sustain quality
- \* Increased community support
- \* Built new Park Operations Center
- \* High customer satisfaction – 2002 survey
- \* America in Bloom Award – 2006

### ▪ **Capital Equipment and Facility Improvements**

- \* Increased community support for Capital Equipment and Facility budget

### ▪ **Coordination with Other Agencies (compliment not compete)**

- \* Leader in collaboration
  - FFY
  - Senior Center
  - CAAC
  - CRH Wellness
  - Gymnastics
  - Visitors Center
  - BCSC
  - Pre-schools



- **Columbus Park Foundation**

- \* Expanded Board
- \* Friends of Park Formed
- \* Supported Haw Creek Trail Project

- **Role in Community Development**

- \* Amateur Sports Partnership with Visitors Center
- \* Over \$9 million dollars in economic impact annually since 2004

- **People Trails**

- \* Front Door section (46) completed
- \* Haw Creek Trail section completed
- \* Donner, Oakbrook, Park sections completed
- \* Trail section to State Street and County Fairgrounds being designed
- \* Trail section to Brown County (Nashville) in INDOT State Master Plan

▪ **Park and Facility Development**

\* **Clifty Park**

- Skate Park
- Trees/Landscaping
- Youth Baseball/Fast Pitch Softball Facilities

\* **Blackwell Park**

- Master Plan for Park (Soccer, Playground, Restroom, Parking)
- Soccer Field improvements and irrigation completed
- Freedom Field Playground completed

\* **McCulloughs Run Park**

- Playground
  - Playfield
  - Shelter
- } Completed

\* **Everroad Park**

- People Trail

\* **Oakbrook Park**

- Basketball Court
- People Trail

**\* Northbrook Park**

- People Trail
- Landscaping/trees

**\* Donner Park**

- People Trail
- Curb replacement
- Donner Pool Improvements

**\* 9th Street Park**

- Basketball Court and Shelter
- Park expansion

**\* Hamilton Center**

- Roof Repairs
- New HVAC System
- Upgraded Energy Mgmt. System
- New water tower system

**\* Greenbelt Golf Course**

- Clubhouse Roof/Siding Repairs
- Tee Marker Improvements
- Cart Path Repairs

**Columbus Parks and Recreation  
Mission Statement**

**Enriching Lives...Building Community**



## **Columbus Parks and Recreation VISION STATEMENT**

The Columbus Parks and Recreation Department

- Is recognized on a local, state and national basis for providing the highest quality programs and facilities.
- Has a well trained, friendly and professional staff that is proud to serve the community.
- Anticipates and is responsive to the changing needs and desires of our community
- Is an active participant in a community-wide program successfully promoting healthy lifestyles and wise leisure choices.
- Is identified as the clearinghouse in Columbus and Bartholomew County for fun activities for children and families.
- Is a major partner in tourism and economic development through the development of park amenities that host and attract visitors to regional and national sports and cultural events.



**Columbus Parks and Recreation Department**  
**Critical Success Factors**

- CSF 1: Establish and implement a department resource development plan and a marketing plan.
- CSF 2: Become an employer of choice.
- CSF 3: Develop a cohesive department process for exploring and developing program opportunities and resources to meet needs and generate revenue.
- CSF 4: Develop a strong facility and grounds management and maintenance process.
- CSF 5: Develop standardized systems for computerized and hard copy files.
- CSF 6: Strengthen internal and external relationships.

## **Columbus Parks and Recreation 2007-2011 Master Plan Update**

### **▪ Goal Priorities**

#### **\* Operations**

- Review and continuously improve maintenance operations. Staff and processes to reflect the financial and personnel needs that are required with increases in facilities.
- Continue to promote Columbus Park Foundation involvement in our community and Friends of the Parks.
- Research the recreational needs of the community so all recreational programming and facilities are developed to be responsive to citizen needs.
- Continue to expand use of user fees and sponsorships by private businesses and corporations to supplement tax funds for facilities and programs.

## **\* Facilities**

- Evaluate the status of undeveloped park land and determine process for development.
- Continually evaluate existing parks and recreation facilities to determine what needs to be done to increase efficiency, make them more attractive, reduce maintenance and increase security in the park system.
- Develop a system of parks that addresses the mobility and diverse interests of all age groups and is balanced between organized and informal recreation activities, and active and passive activities.
- Preserve waterways as areas of green space. These flood plain areas will be developed with caution, under any respective guidelines, and stream banks will be stabilized to minimize erosion.
- Continue to complete trail system throughout the community according to the people trail master plan.
- Continue to be part of the 2020 Downtown Development committee working with the community on decisions regarding future development of the Commons and the Senior Center.

**\* Programs**

- Development of Recreation Program Master Plan
  - Develop programs that will encourage participation by all segments of the population, including the elderly and the physically and mentally challenged.
  - Develop balanced use of facilities between organized and informal recreation activities, active and passive activities.
  - Seek to avoid duplication of resources and services.
- Develop efficient ways of coordinating community resources.
- Ensure that transportation is not an impediment to using park facilities or participating in park programs.



**\* Marketing**

- Complete and implement Parks and Recreation Marketing Plan.
- Form regular Focus Groups and complete community wide survey.



**\* Future Acquisitions**

- Coordinate open space needs with long range community planning and land use programs.
- Establish closed relationships with the Columbus/ Bartholomew Planning Department, including review of plans for new housing additions, in order to anticipate and provide for recreational needs.
- Reserve park land in rapidly developing residential areas.
- Identify projects that individuals, organizations, and businesses can undertake to assist the department in development of parks.
- Provide park resources in areas of need.

## **2007-2011 Capital Budget Priorities**

- **People Trail Development and Maintenance**
- **Stream Bank Erosion Control**
- **Maintaining facilities that already exist to keep operating costs down**

### **Recreation Program Priorities**

- **Grow fee based programs**
- **Increase market share in 3-11 year old age group**
- **Evaluate opportunities for 11-15 age group**
- **Evaluate opportunities for adult programming**
- **Form on-going advisory groups**
- **Continue our collaborative efforts to eliminate program duplication.**

## **Comments and Ideas**

## **Next Steps**

- **Public Meeting**  
\* October 25 and November 8
- **Present preliminary plan to Park Board, December 14**
- **Present preliminary plan to IDNR/Division of Outdoor Recreation – January 15**
- **Preliminary plan response from IDNR/Division of Outdoor Recreation, January, 2007**
- **Public Hearing on final Master Plan for comments, February, 2007**
- **Park Board approval of final Master Plan – April 2007**



**Master Plan Meeting  
11-8-06**

**Attendees:** C.W. Wilt, D. Wildemann, Carl Good, Brad Vacketta, Chuck Boll, Rose Johnson, C. Brummett

**CW described process to update the Master Plan. Lots of projects over the past few years. Updating our Master Plan – send to Dept. of Natural Resources. Makes dept. available for state and fed grants.**

**(Copy of Master Plan presentation attached)**

**Reviewed progress since last Master Plan. Close to \$1M in capital improvements over each of the past 2 years. Work with other agencies to complement what they do. Collaborate –**

**Park Foundation raised funds for trails and other projects. Started Friends of the Parks organization. Park Foundation is something that we want to build on for the future.**

**With sporting events - looking at how to grow current sporting events and add others that complement not compete. Looking at various ways to fund activities. Our role in the sports field has greatly expanded over the last few years. Focus groups were held last week to discuss the possible development of an indoor sports facility by a private developer. (Focus Group info attached)**

**People Trail good example of citizen support getting concept and trail development. Discussed Columbus/Brown Co trail section development – Governor has appointed an individual to lead development of trails for the state.**

**Freedom Field was developed through citizen support. McCulloughs Run – just finishing project – Federal funds were used in development of this park.**

**Reminder that Donner Park, Donner Center and Hamilton Center were gifts to the community. We are responsible to maintain them.**

**Developed Mission Statement over the past few years. Developed Vision Statement – this is what we want to become. We want to be able to change for the times.**

**We have been working on our strategic plan over the past couple of years. Have identified 6 Critical Success Factors that are important to our success in the future.**

Priorities for next 5 years – (Operations) – continue to improve maintenance processes. Before we take on more things, how do we support what we are required to do. Park Foundation offers opportunity to build support for areas such as Youth Scholarships. The department will be 60 years old next summer. Park Foundation will be kicking off a one year celebration – through the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Donner Pool in 2008. Chuck cited the success of Oglebay Park's foundation. Lots of untapped support (opportunity) within the community. Research community needs. Expand use of user fees and sponsorships by private businesses and corporations to supplement tax funds for facilities.

(Facilities) – Evaluate status of parkland. Park Foundation has control of Northbrook – What do we need to do to increase efficiency. C. Boll – with tax on Monon Trail – will this impact us? Unsure - will keep attuned to see what may happen. Continue development of People Trail. Continue involvement in 2020 Downtown Development plan. Continue working with Senior Center.

(Programs) Development of Recreation Master Plan. Develop inclusive programs. Develop balanced use of facilities. Seek to avoid duplication of resources. Ensure that transportation is available.

(Marketing) – Complete and implement Parks and Rec Marketing Plan. Form regular Focus Groups within areas. Want to reach out – more inclusive.

Future Acquisitions – Coordinate open space needs with long range community planning and land use programs. C. Boll – any guidelines used where developers have to set aside areas for parkland. C. Wilt – Planning Department does try to have developers set aside open space within a development. C. Boll – If they have to put in walks, maybe they should put in People Trails too. Really have to think years in the future – how to meet the citizens needs. When streets are being repaved – adding PT at the same time. Parks at Tipton Lakes are a good example of how to work cooperatively to develop parks and manage cost efficiently. Park resources in areas of needs.

2007 -2011 Capital Budget priorities – People Trail Development, Stream Bank Erosion Control, Maintain facilities that already exist

Program Priorities – grow fee based programs, grow market shares, Evaluate opportunities for 11-15 year old age groups (extreme sports), evaluate opportunities. For adult sports (indoor sports facility may offer opportunities for adults), Advisory groups. Collaborative efforts such as with FFY/CAAC. Described relationship with CAAC/Mill Race Players – MRP - now their own organization. They can probably do a better job than we were able to do.

C. Boll – Youth Camp – CW this is a FFY facility – they are a major focus for youth. Lots of experience with youth. FFY has also taken over the management of the Adult Basketball program.

## Comments and Ideas – How can we improve?

B. Vacketta – training Don Gregg has discussed on maintenance of equipment – will be helpful at the rink facility. Good for staff to be able to identify what preventative maintenance is needed so they will be able to handle. C. Wilt described improvements that were made to operation of Donner Pool with training of staff to make a more efficient operation. B. Vacketta – 2 areas that need attention at Hamilton Center – concession area – make more visible. With more and more teams coming in – locker rooms are limited in size – need to make larger – also need to have area for women along with men. Need to determine how we adjust for that.

For pool (Swim Club and community in general) Look at locker room facilities. Compared to Seymour – our locker room does not compare. There is room for improvement there. Making improvements to the facility for the whole community. Need to have area for “family lockerroom” Wish list – if successful in getting schedule with Indiana Swimming – have a way to shade upper deck for spectators. Kitchen – will facilities be available? C. Wilt – ovens/stoves disconnected – caterers now bring food in. When dealing with concessions – generate more money if people can come inside to cool off and buy concessions. Don't need a full kitchen but how do we re-organize the area for events. Are there any other facilities that need upgraded? B. Vacketta – dasher boards at Hamilton Center need replacement probably within the next 5 years. Not sure how that works in the capital plan. Swim team raised money to help with the Donner Pool renovation. B. Vacketta – somewhat of a mind set that with fees being paid to participate there is now need to help raise funds for improvements to the facility. C. Good – swimmers have somewhat of the same mentality. Maybe should develop a maintenance/improvement plan and tie users into the plans or upgrades – they could then set aside funding for the plan. This would be more of a partnership. D. Wildemann – How do user fees compare between groups. C. Wilt – we try to review these but we probably need to do a better job with this. Our user fee policy is one we want to update. You are saying we need to do a better job of working with our partners to keep you informed – needs. C. Boll – like the idea of the foundation a lot. Whatever it takes with the new initiatives going on. The trail and trail tourism – going out to Brown County – anything we can do seems like that is a terrific idea. Efficiency – with fuel costs continuing to go up will be great. C. Wilt – Park Patrol will soon be driving a hybrid for their nightly rounds. Our mechanic is also tracking costs for our equipment. Our user groups may be helpful to identify how we can be more efficient. C. Boll – can we privatize some areas? Mission – if in 3-11 age group everyone had an aerobic sport – C. Wilt – what we do can add to everyone's quality of life – who do we sell that to. We are members of Bartholomew County on the Move – they are working with the obesity problem with kids. Pushing back on sugared drinks at schools.

D. Wildemann - Encourage wildflower/natural landscaping that if done right and identified properly can be a real draw. We are from Wisconsin and that is almost like a business up there – it is a tourist draw. People come to look at the wildflowers. Could partner with some of the conservation groups to get technical or grant assistance – it's a win win – better for the environment. Really good along the trails – a natural.

C. Boll -Golf – with regard to Greenbelt and Par 3 – seems that Greenbelt would eventually be a great health campus for the hospital. Maybe Par 3 would be better developed as housing? C. Wilt – that is what has been done in some areas down south. Response to demand – lots of competition in golf business – did 22,000 in 9 hole business – Par 3 supports a lot of interest from youth players. Tennis leagues are also down but we are seeing an increase in kids in lessons. Lot of opportunity to get kids involved – PAAL has been supportive with Hook a Kid on Golf. It gets down to eventually looking at whether we should be in these businesses. Columbus has a lot of resources.

D. Wildemann - Looking at down the road – is there a finite life expectancy for a facility such as Donner Pool? C. Wilt – we were amazed at how good the bottom of the pool was when we got into it. D. Wildemann – was there any type of study done when leisure pool was installed? C. Wilt – good questions – how long it can last. The community pool is for everyone. C. Good – in looking at maintenance – if you do timely maintenance will it last another 30 years? C. Boll -Don't want catastrophic failure C. Wilt – when doing capital plan for the next five years – contact user groups and get input. Many times, user groups see problems that we may not see. Like at the skate park – they let us know what needs to be done.

D. Wildemann – when we moved to Columbus – wondered why seating was on the roof – after kids started swimming – saw why there was such a need. Use pictures of facility use

C. Boll – Swimmers and skaters coming to Columbus – a fee on the internet to see kids/grandkids participate. D. Wildemann - For state swim meet we had live results and posted for folks to see. C. Good – as society changes – what facilities should have “hot spots” and where are they not needed.

C. Boll – are activities evenly divided between men and women – C. Wilt – opportunities among all age groups – make sure to address this. C. Boll – LaCross really picking up all over the state.

D. Wildemann – plan to have outdoor sports park along Jonathon Moore Pike – still looking at – Long range vision. New hotel going in downtown – interest by private developer for indoor sports facility at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Lafayette – D. Wildemann – lots of people currently driving out of the area. Don't know what will happen yet.

**C. Wilt - Want to keep it as a private development – their area of expertise. We invited Tipton Lakes, Total Fitness to participate to get their ideas.**

**C. Wilt – reviewed next steps - How technology can help us do a better job.**

**Thanked folks for coming.**



**Columbus Parks and Recreation Department  
Master Plan 2007-2011**

**Public Comments  
March 8, 2007**

The department provided copies of the Columbus Parks and Recreation Department Master Plan 2007-2011 Draft at locations within the community from January to March 15 to solicit public comment.

At the meetings of the Columbus Parks and Recreation Department Board in February and March, 2007, time was set aside to hear public input. No comments were received at the February 2007 meeting but the following comments/questions were received at the March meeting.

John Price asked the following questions:

**Why have there been such drastic deficits in the golf, gymnastics and Hamilton Center budgets in the last few years. How serious is this?**

*Mike Keogh responded:*

The deficits are the reason that we are now reviewing all our fees and charges for all programs and facilities. We can't raise the fees and remain competitive with other agencies. We are trying to decide if we should continue to have golf courses.

Hamilton Center Ice Arena has been operating in a deficit for the past 15 years and now we think we may actually break even this year.

Columbus Gymnastics Center has changed its focus from offering a more competitive program to a larger recreational program. The competitive program is very costly. Since our change of focus and reduction of expenses we are now operating in the black this year. Our revenue is down but so are our expenses. We expect to continue this method of management.

Donner Aquatic Center also operated at 55% self sufficiency last year.

*Chuck Wilt responded:*

We have found that the community of Columbus expects certain services even if we have to find different sources to fund our programming.

We are currently looking at ways to get more input from the public and make more people aware of the things that we offer as far as programs, facilities, etc.

We are also working with the Columbus Park Foundation to help raise funds to deal with some of the special needs of our facilities/programming.

**How can we decrease our vandalism costs?**

*Chuck Wilt responded:*

We are asking citizens to report any vandalism in their area if possible and also when they are using the parks and facilities. Also several neighborhood watch groups have been formed. We are also investigating the possibility of surveillance cameras installed in many of our parks and facilities. We have also worked with the Columbus Police Department on including us on their rounds.

**Will there be additional parks planned in the 46 West Area?**

*Chuck Wilt responded:*

Not at this time. We are always looking for opportunities to work with groups to encourage parks/playgrounds and facilities be built. Harrison Ridge, Oakbrook, and Freedom Field are examples of these partnerships. The Jolie Crider Memorial Skate Park in Clifty Park is also an example of working with the volunteer groups.

**How do you come up with the list of projects in the appendix section of the Master Plan?**

*Chuck Wilt responded:*

We look at the most critical need for facilities, equipment, etc. We determine what we can fit in our budget and at times some less critical projects are deferred to another year to allow for the critical to be repaired.

**When will we develop additional people trails and improve signage on the existing trails?**

*Laura Garrett responded:*

Some of the trail maintenance/development is on hold at this point due to other city projects which could affect them. The Marr Road portion is one of these and the Home Ave./Westenedge section is due for an upgrade in 2008. In the trail design phase now is the section from State Street to the 4-H Fairgrounds which is also on hold due to the recent plans for downtown development. Mr. Price also said that the section near the bridge at 25<sup>th</sup> Street and National Road is a problem. Laura said we are looking at that problem. Laura said we currently have 19 miles of trails. Chuck said that Laura had worked with Nashville, IN on a concept for people trails from Columbus to Nashville which should materialize within the next 20 years.

**When will we receive more signage to allow people easier travel on the trails?**

*Laura Garrett responded:*

Laura said we are looking at that problem and trying to find a way to deal with the cost of additional signage and placement of the signs.

**What types of new facilities/programs are being looked at?**

*Chuck Wilt responded:*

We are looking at the possibility of a new dog park and programming – a new pickle ball league. We are trying to be careful not to duplicate services. We are also looking at transportation for the public to our facilities/programs. The

Columbus Park Foundation is working with us to try and fund facilities/program improvements whenever possible. They provide scholarship money so that children may participate in programs even when parents cannot afford the fees even though we strive to keep our program fees affordable.

**Future acquisitions?**

*Chuck Wilt responded:*

When we are offered a property gift, we need to look at how much maintenance will cost and can we afford to maintain it. We are also looking at ways to conserve energy and operate in the most cost effective way. Chuck said we are also looking at ways to grow our fee based programs.

Chuck thanked Mr. Price for his time and interest in the park department.

**Appendix I**  
**Phone Survey – Appendix I – 2**

## Columbus Parks and Recreation

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am calling from the Indiana University Public Opinion Laboratory on behalf of the City of Columbus Parks and Recreation Services. We are calling today to discuss some important issues related to parks in your community. All of your answers will be kept completely confidential and anonymous. This interview should only take about ten minutes, and I promise I am not trying to sell anything.

SCR1. What county do you live in?

- 1 Bartholomew
- 2 Other (Thank and Terminate)
- 3 Don't Know (Thank and Terminate)
- 4 No Answer/Refuse (Thank and Terminate)

SCR2. Gender (RECORD BY OBSERVATION)

- 1 Male
- 2 Female

SCR3. What is your age?

- 1 18-34
- 2 35-54
- 3 55+
- 4 Don't Know (Thank and Terminate)
- 5 No Answer/Refuse (Thank and Terminate)

SCR4. What is your zipcode?

\_\_\_\_\_  
99999=No Answer/Refuse

1. In what township do you reside?

- |             |                     |
|-------------|---------------------|
| 1 Clay      | 8 Jackson           |
| 2 Clifty    | 9 Ohio              |
| 3 Columbus  | 10 Rockcreek        |
| 4 Flat Rock | 11 Sandcreek        |
| 5 German    | 12 Wayne            |
| 6 Harrison  | 13 Don't Know       |
| 7 Hawcreek  | 14 No Answer/Refuse |



2. Which Columbus city parks have you visited in the past year? (Probe. Do not read list.

Accept multiple responses.)

- ☐ Clifty Park
- ☐ The Commons
- ☐ Donner Park
- ☐ Harrison Ridge Park
- ☐ IUPU Columbus Park
- ☐ Lincoln Park
- ☐ Mead Village Park
- ☐ Mill Race Park
- ☐ Morningside Park
- ☐ Ninth Street Park
- ☐ Noblitt Park
- ☐ Oakbrook Park
- ☐ Pence Street Park
- ☐ Richards School Park
- ☐ Chapman T Blackwell III Park, formerly known as Westenedge Park
- ☐ Other 1 (If respondent does not know park name, accept location/cross streets)
- ☐ Other 2
- ☐ Other 3

FOR EACH PARK MENTIONED, ASK:

How many times did you visit that park in the past year? \_\_\_\_\_

2a. In the past year, have you visited the Commons, the indoor recreation area maintained by Columbus Parks and Recreation?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Don't Know
- 4 No answer/Refuse

The following questions deal with outdoor facilities provided by the Columbus Parks and Recreation Department.

3. How well would you say the city of Columbus' park grounds and facilities are maintained? Would you say

- 1 Excellent
- 2 Good
- 3 Fair
- 4 Poor
- 5 Don't Know
- 6 No Answer/Refuse

4. Are you or anyone in your family involved in any non-competitive outdoor recreation activities? By non-competitive, we mean recreation such as hiking, biking, walking, and nature observation.

- 1 Yes
- 2 No (SKIP TO 6)
- 3 Don't Know (SKIP TO 6)
- 4 No Answer (SKIP TO 6)

5. What non-competitive outdoor recreation activities are you or the members of your family presently involved with?

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5a. Where do you go to participate in these activities?

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5b. Which of these activities should be organized and publicized by Columbus Parks and Recreation?

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6. Do you think there are too many, not enough, or just the right amount of nature areas in the city of Columbus?

- 1 Too many
- 2 Not Enough
- 3 Just the Right Amount
- 4 Don't Know
- 5 No Answer/Refuse

7. What size park do you prefer? Would you say

- 1 Small parks, like Harrison Ridge or 9<sup>th</sup> Street Park
- 2 Medium-size parks, like Oakbrook or Mead Village Park
- 3 Large parks, like Donner or Mill Race Park
- 4 No preference/Don't know (DO NOT READ)
- 5 No answer/Refuse (DO NOT READ)

8. Do you feel safe while visiting City of Columbus Park sites and facilities?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Don't Know
- 4 No Answer

9. Do you or anyone in your household have a dog?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No (SKIP TO 9)
- 3 Don't Know (SKIP TO 9)
- 4 No Answer/Refuse (SKIP TO 9)

9a. Do you use Columbus city parks to walk or exercise your dog?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Don't Know
- 4 No Answer/Refuse

10. Should Columbus Parks and Recreation designate a special area to be used by dogs and dog owners?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Don't Know
- 4 No Answer/Refuse

The following questions are about activities that are offered for free or a small fee by Columbus Parks and Recreation. Please tell me whether you or anyone in your household have participated in these activities.

11. Have you or anyone in your household ever participated in any Aquatics program or attended open swimming at the Donner Aquatics Center or at the Foundation for Youth pool?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No (SKIP TO 11c)
- 3 Don't Know (SKIP TO 11d)
- 4 No Answer/Refuse (SKIP TO 11d)

11a. How would you rate the aquatic activities that you or someone in your household participated in?

- 1 Excellent
- 2 Good
- 3 Fair
- 4 Poor
- 5 Don't Know
- 6 No Answer/Refuse

11b. What could Columbus Parks and Recreation do to improve its aquatics programs and/or facilities? (DO NOT READ LIST) (ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES)

- 1 Seniors program (SKIP TO 11d)
- 2 Offer water aerobics (SKIP TO 11d)
- 3 Nothing, it is good as is (SKIP TO 11d)
- 4 Something else (specify?) \_\_\_\_\_ (SKIP TO 11d)
- 5 Don't Know (SKIP TO 11d)
- 6 No Answer Refuse (SKIP TO 11d)

11c. Why have you never participated in an Aquatics program or open-swimming at these facilities? (ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES) (DO NOT READ LIST)

- 1 Don't know how to swim
- 2 Didn't know about it
- 3 Cost of programs
- 4 Not interested in swimming
- 5 We use a private pool/have our own pool
- 6 Something else (specify?) \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 Don't Know
- 8 No Answer/Refuse

11d. Do you think there are too many, not enough, or just the right amount of aquatic programs in the city of Columbus?

- 1 Too many
- 2 Not Enough
- 3 Just the Right Amount
- 4 Don't Know
- 5 No Answer/Refuse

12. Have you or anyone in your household ever played or used the golf facilities of Greenbelt Golf Course or Rocky Ford Par 3 Golf Course?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No (SKIP TO 12c)
- 3 Don't Know (SKIP TO 13)
- 4 No Answer/Refuse (SKIP TO 13)

12a. Which of these two golf courses did you visit most recently? Was it...

- 1 Greenbelt Golf Course
- 2 Rocky Ford Par 3 Golf Course
- 3 Don't Know (SKIP TO 13)
- 4 No Answer/Refuse (SKIP TO 13)

12b. How would you rate your most recent visit to this golf course? Would you say it was...

- 1 Excellent (SKIP TO 13)
- 2 Good (SKIP TO 13)
- 3 Fair (SKIP TO 13)
- 4 Poor (SKIP TO 13)
- 5 Don't Know (SKIP TO 13)
- 6 No Answer/Refuse (SKIP TO 13)

12c. Why have you or anyone in your household not visited or played at Greenbelt Golf Course or Rocky Ford Par 3 Golf Course in the past 3 years?

- 1 Don't play golf
- 2 Use other facilities
- 3 Greenbelt is too busy
- 4 Rocky Ford is too busy
- 4 Something else? \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Don't Know
- 6 No Answer/Refuse

13. Have you or anyone in your household ever participated in any of the gymnastics programs or events sponsored by Columbus Parks and Recreation?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No (SKIP TO 13b)
- 3 Don't Know (SKIP TO 14)
- 4 No Answer/Refuse (SKIP TO 14)

13a. How would you rate your experience with these programs or events? Would you say it was...

- 1 Excellent (SKIP TO 14)
- 2 Good (SKIP TO 14)
- 3 Fair (SKIP TO 14)
- 4 Poor (SKIP TO 14)
- 5 Don't Know (SKIP TO 14)
- 6 No Answer/Refuse (SKIP TO 14)



13b. Why have you or anyone in your household never participated in these gymnastic events or programs? (ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES) (DO NOT READ LIST)

- 1 No interest in gymnastics
- 2 Cost of programs
- 3 Unaware of programs
- 4 Use other facilities
- 5 Too busy
- 6 Gymnastics is for girls
- 7 Too old for gymnastics
- 8 Something else? \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 Don't Know
- 10 No Answer/Refuse

14. Have you or anyone in your household participated in ice hockey or ice skating at the Hamilton Ice Arena?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No (SKIP TO 15)
- 3 Don't Know (SKIP TO 15)
- 4 No Answer/Refuse (SKIP TO 15)

14a. How would you rate this experience? Would you say

- 1 Excellent
- 2 Good
- 3 Fair
- 4 Poor
- 5 Don't Know
- 6 No Answer/Refuse

15. Have you or anyone in your household ever participated in sports programs sponsored by Columbus Parks and Recreation, other than the ones we have already talked about?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No (SKIP TO 16)
- 3 Don't Know (SKIP TO 16)
- 4 No Answer/Refuse (SKIP TO 16)

15a. What sports programs did you or someone in your household participate in? (Accept multiple responses)

- 1 Basketball
- 2 Youth baseball
- 3 Volleyball
- 4 Soccer
- 5 Other 1 (Specify? \_\_\_\_\_)
- 6 Other 2 (Specify? \_\_\_\_\_)
- 7 Other 3 (Specify? \_\_\_\_\_)

|                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| FOR EACH SPORT MENTIONED, ASK:<br>How would you rate this experience? Would you say |
| 1 Excellent                                                                         |
| 2 Good                                                                              |
| 3 Fair                                                                              |
| 4 Poor                                                                              |
| 5 Don't Know                                                                        |
| 6 No Answer/Refuse                                                                  |

16. Of the sports programs we have talked about today, which is the most important for you?

- 1 Aquatics
- 2 Golf
- 3 Gymnastics
- 4 Softball
- 5 Basketball
- 6 Youth Baseball
- 7 Volleyball
- 8 Soccer
- 9 Ice hockey or Ice Skating
- 10 Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- 11 Don't Know
- 12 No Answer/Refuse

Now I am going to ask some questions about recreation programs other than sports. Have you or anyone in your household participated in any of the following Columbus Parks and Recreation programs?

17. Performing arts or community theater

- 1 Yes
- 2 No (SKIP TO 18)
- 3 Don't Know (SKIP TO 18)
- 4 No Answer/Refuse (SKIP TO 18)

17a. How would you rate this experience? Would you say

- 1 Excellent
- 2 Good
- 3 Fair
- 4 Poor
- 5 Don't Know
- 6 No Answer/Refuse

18. Crafts or special interest classes

- 1 Yes
- 2 No (SKIP TO 19)
- 3 Don't Know (SKIP TO 19)
- 4 No Answer/Refuse (SKIP TO 19)

18a. How would you rate this experience? Would you say

- 1 Excellent
- 2 Good
- 3 Fair
- 4 Poor
- 5 Don't Know
- 6 No Answer/Refuse

19. Special family events such as concerts, films, festivals

- 1 Yes
- 2 No (SKIP TO 20)
- 3 Don't Know (SKIP TO 20)
- 4 No Answer/Refuse (SKIP TO 20)

19a. How would you rate this experience? Would you say

- 1 Excellent
- 2 Good
- 3 Fair
- 4 Poor
- 5 Don't Know
- 6 No Answer/Refuse

20. Preschool or youth classes

- 1 Yes
- 2 No (SKIP TO 21)
- 3 Don't Know (SKIP TO 21)
- 4 No Answer/Refuse (SKIP TO 21)

20a. How would you rate this experience? Would you say

- 1 Excellent
- 2 Good
- 3 Fair
- 4 Poor
- 5 Don't Know
- 6 No Answer/Refuse

21. Preschool or youth day camp

- 1 Yes
- 2 No (SKIP TO 22)
- 3 Don't Know (SKIP TO 22)
- 4 No Answer/Refuse (SKIP TO 22)

21a. How would you rate this experience? Would you say

- 1 Excellent
- 2 Good
- 3 Fair
- 4 Poor
- 5 Don't Know
- 6 No Answer/Refuse

**22. Free supervised playground programs**

- 1 Yes**
- 2 No (SKIP TO 23)**
- 3 Don't Know (SKIP TO 23)**
- 4 No Answer/Refuse (SKIP TO 23)**

**22a. How would you rate this experience? Would you say**

- 1 Excellent**
- 2 Good**
- 3 Fair**
- 4 Poor**
- 5 Don't Know**
- 6 No Answer/Refuse**

**23. Senior citizen recreation programs**

- 1 Yes**
- 2 No (SKIP TO 24)**
- 3 Don't Know (SKIP TO 24)**
- 4 No Answer/Refuse (SKIP TO 24)**

**23a. How would you rate this experience? Would you say**

- 1 Excellent**
- 2 Good**
- 3 Fair**
- 4 Poor**
- 5 Don't Know**
- 6 No Answer/Refuse**

**24. What activity, program, or event would you like to see offered by Columbus Parks and Recreation that is not offered now?**

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**25. As you know, parks are paid for by property taxes. Do you think you are receiving value for your tax dollar?**

- 1 Yes**
- 2 No**
- 3 Don't Know**
- 4 No Answer/Refuse**

26. Are you aware that the Parks and Recreation Department offers financial aid programs for children in low-income families?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Don't Know
- 4 No Answer/Refuse

27. Would you recognize Columbus Parks and Recreation Department's logo if you saw it?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Don't Know
- 4 No Answer/Refuse

28. Do you participate in recreation or fitness activities other than those sponsored by Columbus Parks and Recreation (IF RESPONDENT ASKS: for example, Ceraland, Tipton Lakes, or Columbus Wellness Program) ?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No (SKIP TO 29)
- 3 Don't Know (SKIP TO 29)
- 4 No Answer/Refuse (SKIP TO 29)

28a. Are there services or provided by these programs that you would like to see Columbus Parks and Recreation provide?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No (SKIP TO 29)
- 3 Don't Know (SKIP TO 29)
- 4 No Answer/Refuse (SKIP TO 29)

28b. What are the specific services or facilities that you would like to see Columbus Parks and Recreation provide?

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29. What is your main source of information about programs and events sponsored by Columbus Parks and Recreation? (ACCEPT UP TO 3 ANSWERS)

- 1 Television
- 2 Radio
- 3 Newspapers
- 4 Family
- 5 Friends
- 6 Flyers/Brochures
- 7 Other (Please Specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 No Answer/Refuse



30. Do you regularly listen to any local radio stations?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No (SKIP TO 31)
- 3 Don't Know (SKIP TO 31)
- 4 No Answer/Refuse (SKIP TO 31)

30a. Which station do you listen to most frequently?

- 1 WRZQ -107.3 FM - Columbus, IN
- 2 WKKG -101.5 FM - Columbus, IN
- 3 WCSI - 1010 AM - Columbus, IN
- 4 Other \_\_\_\_\_

(PROBE. GET DETAILS. GET NUMBER, CALL LETTERS & CITY IF POSSIBLE.  
NOT "Q-95", BUT "94.7 WFBQ, INDIANAPOLIS")

31. Do you regularly read a local newspaper?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Don't Know
- 4 No Answer/Refuse

32. Do you ever use the Internet or World Wide Web?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No (SKIP TO 36)
- 3 Don't Know (SKIP TO 36)
- 4 No Answer/ Refuse (SKIP TO 36)

33. Have you ever searched for recreational information on the Internet or World Wide Web?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Don't Know
- 4 No Answer/Refuse

34. Have you visited Columbus Parks and Recreation Department's World Wide Web site?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Don't Know
- 4 No Answer/Refuse

35. If you could use a Web site to sign up for Columbus Parks and Recreation classes and programs, would you do so?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Maybe
- 4 Don't Know
- 5 No Answer/Refuse

Now I have just a few more demographic questions to make sure I am speaking to a representative sample of the city of Columbus and surrounding residents.

36. What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

- 1 Less than 8<sup>th</sup> Grade
- 2 Less than High School
- 3 High School Graduate/GED
- 4 Technical School
- 5 Some College
- 6 College Graduate
- 7 Post Graduate (PhD, Master's)
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 No Answer/Refuse

37. Last year, before taxes, what was your annual household income?

- 1 up to \$10,000
- 2 \$10,000 to \$30,000
- 3 \$30,000 to \$50,000
- 4 \$50,000 to \$75,000
- 5 \$75,000 to \$100,000
- 6 \$100,000 to \$125,000
- 7 More than \$125,000
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 No Answer/Refuse

38. Do you own or rent your home?

- 1 Own
- 2 Rent
- 3 Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Don't Know
- 5 No Answer/Refuse

39. What is the one thing you would like to tell the city of Columbus Parks and Recreation Department that would help better your parks?

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40. Would you be interested in information concerning volunteer opportunities with the parks?

- 1 Yes (GIVE INFO – Parks Dept web site, phone number)
- 2 No
- 3 Don't Know
- 4 No Answer/Refuse

That was my last question. I would like to thank you for your time and cooperation and remember your opinion counts.

**Appendix I**  
**Web Survey – Appendix I – 3**

**Dear Columbus Parks & Recreation customer:**

**In an effort to better serve our customers, we are currently distributing a survey to those who have recently enrolled in a program using our online registration system. Please take a moment to complete the online survey by clicking the link below. Your input will help us to improve our registration process and program offerings in order to bring you the best possible experience for your family.**

**<http://www.zoomerang.com/survey.zgi?p=WEB225EHM2YGZY>**

**The survey should take no more than 10 minutes to complete. The information you provide will only be used by Columbus Parks and Recreation Department. Your email address will not be shared with others.**

**Should you have any additional comments or concerns, please feel free to email me at [khatter@columbus.in.gov](mailto:khatter@columbus.in.gov) or call me at (812) 376-2696.**

**Many thanks,  
Katia Hatter**

# Website Motivation and Buying Experience (NEW) Results Overview



Date: 12/5/2006 11:30 AM PST  
Responses: Completes  
Filter: No filter applied

In an effort to improve how we serve you, Columbus Parks and Recreation Department is interested in learning more about how and why you register for our services. Please take a few moments to complete this brief survey. Your feedback is important to us and your responses will help us to better target our products and services to meet your needs. Your responses will be kept confidential and will not be used for any purpose other than research conducted by Columbus Parks and Recreation Department. This survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

1. During the last 12 months, please indicate those classes/activities in which you or a family member has participated. Please check all that apply.

|                                             |                                     |    |     |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----|-----|
| Day Camps (youth)                           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 17 | 18% |
| Sports/sports camps (youth or adult)        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 55 | 60% |
| Ice Skating/Hockey lessons (youth or adult) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 13 | 14% |
| Aquatics lessons/programs (youth or adult)  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 16 | 17% |
| Gymnastics lessons/programs                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 18 | 20% |
| None                                        | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 15 | 16% |

2. How long have you participated in Columbus Parks and Recreation programs or activities?

|                                         |                                     |    |      |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----|------|
| Less than 6 months                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 5  | 6%   |
| More than 6 months but less than 1 year | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 2  | 3%   |
| 1-3 years                               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 19 | 24%  |
| Over 3 years                            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 52 | 67%  |
| Never used                              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 0  | 0%   |
| Total                                   |                                     | 78 | 100% |

3. Thinking of your most recent purchase from Columbus Parks and Recreation Department, how satisfied were you overall with the purchasing experience?

|                   |                                     |    |      |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|----|------|
| Very satisfied    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 29 | 37%  |
| Satisfied         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 39 | 50%  |
| Neutral           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 8  | 10%  |
| Dissatisfied      | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 2  | 3%   |
| Very dissatisfied | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 0  | 0%   |
| Total             |                                     | 78 | 100% |

5. What product(s)/services(s) did you purchase? Please check all that apply.

|                                             |                                     |    |     |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----|-----|
| Day Camps (youth)                           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 16 | 21% |
| Sports camps/teams (youth or adult)         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 50 | 64% |
| Ice skating/Hockey lessons (youth or adult) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 12 | 15% |



|                                              |    |     |
|----------------------------------------------|----|-----|
| Aquatics lessons/activities (youth or adult) | 16 | 21% |
| Gymnastics lessons (youth)                   | 10 | 13% |
| Other, Please Specify                        | 10 | 13% |

## 6. How or where did you register for the activity?

|                                                |           |             |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| In person at a Columbus Parks and Rec facility | 25        | 32%         |
| Phone-in                                       | 23        | 29%         |
| Fax-in                                         | 0         | 0%          |
| Mail-in                                        | 2         | 3%          |
| Online at www.columbusparksandrec.com          | 25        | 32%         |
| Other, Please Specify                          | 3         | 4%          |
| <b>Total</b>                                   | <b>78</b> | <b>100%</b> |

## 7. How did you learn about this particular class or activity?

|                                |           |             |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Fun Guide/other mailing        | 5         | 6%          |
| Newspaper                      | 2         | 3%          |
| Radio                          | 52        | 68%         |
| Parks and Rec website/Internet | 10        | 13%         |
| Other, Please Specify          | 8         | 10%         |
| <b>Total</b>                   | <b>77</b> | <b>100%</b> |

## 8. How would you rate the overall value of this class/activity?

|                     |           |             |
|---------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Very valuable       | 24        | 31%         |
| Valuable            | 43        | 55%         |
| Neutral             | 10        | 13%         |
| Somewhat valuable   | 0         | 0%          |
| Not at all valuable | 1         | 1%          |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>78</b> | <b>100%</b> |

## 9. How well do you agree with the following statements?

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of total respondents selecting the option.

|                                             | Strongly agree | Agree     | Neutral   | Somewhat disagree | Strongly disagree | N/A     |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|-------------------|---------|
| Class/activity was worth the purchase price | 24<br>31%      | 39<br>50% | 11<br>14% | 3<br>4%           | 0<br>0%           | 1<br>1% |
| Class/activity is competitively priced      | 27<br>35%      | 40<br>51% | 7<br>9%   | 3<br>4%           | 0<br>0%           | 1<br>1% |
| Class/activity does what it claims          | 28<br>33%      | 41<br>53% | 8<br>10%  | 3<br>4%           | 0<br>0%           | 0<br>0% |
| Class/activity does what I need             | 27<br>35%      | 36<br>46% | 12<br>15% | 2<br>3%           | 1<br>1%           | 0<br>0% |
| Class/activity was                          | 24             | 35        | 8         | 3                 | 0                 | 0       |

enjoyable 44% 45% 8% 0% 3% 0%

### 10. How important are the following characteristics to you when purchasing product/service?

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option.  
Bottom % is percent of total respondents selecting the option.

|                                                                   | Very important | Important | Neutral   | Somewhat important | Not at all important |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Quality of the class/activity                                     | 51<br>65%      | 25<br>32% | 2<br>3%   | 0<br>0%            | 0<br>0%              |
| Price of the class/activity                                       | 28<br>36%      | 38<br>49% | 9<br>12%  | 3<br>4%            | 0<br>0%              |
| Reputation of Columbus Parks and Recreation Department            | 22<br>29%      | 35<br>45% | 16<br>21% | 3<br>4%            | 1<br>1%              |
| Registration experience                                           | 11<br>14%      | 44<br>56% | 19<br>24% | 3<br>4%            | 1<br>1%              |
| Initial experience with class/activity                            | 38<br>49%      | 36<br>46% | 4<br>5%   | 0<br>0%            | 0<br>0%              |
| Experience during class/activity                                  | 50<br>64%      | 23<br>29% | 5<br>6%   | 0<br>0%            | 0<br>0%              |
| Follow-up after class/activity                                    | 7<br>9%        | 32<br>42% | 29<br>38% | 6<br>8%            | 2<br>3%              |
| Repeat registration following initial class/activity registration | 9<br>12%       | 42<br>55% | 22<br>29% | 3<br>4%            | 1<br>1%              |

### 11. What was the primary reason for registering for a class/activity with Columbus Parks and Recreation Department?

|                                                                   |    |      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----|------|
| Quality of the class/activity                                     | 16 | 21%  |
| Price of the class/activity                                       | 8  | 11%  |
| Reputation of Columbus Parks and Recreation Department            | 8  | 11%  |
| Registration experience                                           | 0  | 0%   |
| Initial experience with class/activity                            | 7  | 9%   |
| Experience during class/activity                                  | 15 | 20%  |
| Follow-up after initial class/activity participation              | 1  | 1%   |
| Repeat registration following initial class/activity registration | 9  | 12%  |
| Other, Please Specify                                             | 12 | 16%  |
| Total                                                             | 76 | 100% |

### 12. How many times have you registered for a class/activity with Columbus Parks and Recreation Department in the past 12 months?

|                   |    |      |
|-------------------|----|------|
| 1 time            | 10 | 13%  |
| 2-3 times         | 37 | 47%  |
| 4-5 times         | 17 | 22%  |
| More than 5 times | 14 | 18%  |
| Total             | 78 | 100% |

## 13. Would you register again for a Columbus Parks and Recreation Department class/activity?

|                |  |    |      |
|----------------|--|----|------|
| Definitely     |  | 57 | 74%  |
| Probably       |  | 17 | 22%  |
| Not sure       |  | 3  | 4%   |
| Probably not   |  | 0  | 0%   |
| Definitely not |  | 0  | 0%   |
| Total          |  | 77 | 100% |

## 15. Did you work with a Columbus Parks and Recreation Department employee during your registration process?

|       |  |    |      |
|-------|--|----|------|
| Yes   |  | 48 | 62%  |
| No    |  | 30 | 38%  |
| Total |  | 78 | 100% |

## 16. Please rate the following characteristics of the employee who helped you.

| Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of total respondents selecting the option. | Excellent | Very good | Good      | Fair    | Poor    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|
| Knowledge about the class/activity                                                                                          | 12<br>25% | 17<br>35% | 15<br>31% | 4<br>8% | 0<br>0% |
| Courteousness                                                                                                               | 22<br>48% | 15<br>31% | 8<br>17%  | 3<br>6% | 0<br>0% |
| Willingness to help                                                                                                         | 19<br>40% | 18<br>38% | 6<br>13%  | 4<br>9% | 0<br>0% |
| Efficiency/quickness                                                                                                        | 20<br>42% | 20<br>42% | 7<br>15%  | 1<br>2% | 0<br>0% |
| Ability to complete transaction                                                                                             | 23<br>49% | 18<br>38% | 6<br>13%  | 0<br>0% | 0<br>0% |

4 Responses

This survey is almost complete. These last few questions help us to analyze survey responses.

## 17. Gender:

|                      |  |    |      |
|----------------------|--|----|------|
| Male                 |  | 15 | 19%  |
| Female               |  | 62 | 79%  |
| Prefer not to answer |  | 1  | 1%   |
| Total                |  | 78 | 100% |

## 18. Age:

|                      |  |    |      |
|----------------------|--|----|------|
| 18 - 24              |  | 1  | 1%   |
| 25 - 34              |  | 27 | 35%  |
| 35 - 44              |  | 39 | 50%  |
| 45 - 54              |  | 9  | 12%  |
| 55 - 64              |  | 2  | 3%   |
| 65 or above          |  | 0  | 0%   |
| Prefer not to answer |  | 0  | 0%   |
| Total                |  | 78 | 100% |

## 19. Employment:

|                      |  |           |             |
|----------------------|--|-----------|-------------|
| Employed Full-Time   |  | 56        | 72%         |
| Employed Part-Time   |  | 12        | 15%         |
| Unemployed           |  | 8         | 10%         |
| Retired              |  | 0         | 0%          |
| Student              |  | 0         | 0%          |
| Prefer not to answer |  | 2         | 3%          |
| <b>Total</b>         |  | <b>78</b> | <b>100%</b> |

**20. Income:**

|                       |  |           |             |
|-----------------------|--|-----------|-------------|
| Under \$20,000        |  | 2         | 3%          |
| \$20,000 - \$29,999   |  | 5         | 6%          |
| \$30,000 - \$39,999   |  | 9         | 12%         |
| \$40,000 - \$49,999   |  | 6         | 8%          |
| \$50,000 - \$69,999   |  | 12        | 15%         |
| \$70,000 - \$99,999   |  | 23        | 29%         |
| \$100,000 - \$149,999 |  | 10        | 13%         |
| \$150,000 or more     |  | 4         | 5%          |
| Prefer not to answer  |  | 7         | 9%          |
| <b>Total</b>          |  | <b>78</b> | <b>100%</b> |

**21. Education:**

|                              |  |           |             |
|------------------------------|--|-----------|-------------|
| High school or less          |  | 5         | 6%          |
| Trade or vocational school   |  | 2         | 3%          |
| Attended some college        |  | 18        | 23%         |
| Undergraduate college degree |  | 31        | 40%         |
| Graduate degree              |  | 20        | 26%         |
| Prefer not to answer         |  | 2         | 3%          |
| <b>Total</b>                 |  | <b>78</b> | <b>100%</b> |

Thank you for your time and valuable input.



**Appendix I**  
**Focus Group Results – Appendix I –4**

## **Focus Group Introductory Comments**

Welcome! Thank you for taking the time to join our discussion. My name is Katia Hatter. I am on the staff with Columbus Parks and Recreation Department. Also assisting with this session is Cindy Brummett, another Parks & Rec staff member and Becky Fitzpatrick with our summer staff. (Other staff members with the Department are observing today's Focus Group so that they can learn more about your thoughts and ideas).

Columbus Parks and Recreation Department is interested in hearing how we can best serve you and your families. We are interested in preparing for the future, and your comments will be instrumental in helping us to plan for the future. We are conducting two focus groups this week, and may be conducting more in the future.

Each of you were invited to this group because you have certain things in common that are of particular interest to this study – you have been identified as one of our Top 100 user families. Congratulations and thank you for your support! We know that as a frequent user of Columbus Parks and Recreation services and facilities, your input will be very important as we continue our long range planning.

In this session, we will be discussing your experiences and your opinions. There are no right or wrong answers but rather differing points of view and/or experience. Please feel free to share your ideas even if they differ from what others have said.

Before we begin, let me share some Ground Rules. Please speak up with only one person talking at a time. We are tape recording the session because we don't want to miss any of your comments. If several are talking at the same time, the tape will be garbled and we'll miss your comments. There may be times when I repeat a comment for the tape if I am concerned it was not picked up.

We will be on a first name basis tonight, and in our later reports no names will be attached to comments. Your name may be reported as a participant, but beyond that you may be assured of complete confidentiality. Please keep in mind that we are just as interested in negative comments as positive comments, and at times negative comments can be the most helpful.

Our session will last about an hour. At the end of the session, we will be asking you to complete a brief written survey that is a companion to the focus group questions.

We've placed name tents on the table in front of you to help us remember each other's names. Let's begin by going around the room one at a time. Please tell us your name, the number of years you've lived in Columbus, and which Parks & Rec activities you or your family are involved in currently.



**Columbus Parks and Recreation Department  
Focus Group Discussion Guide for  
August 8 and 10, 2006 groups  
Top 100 users**

**Questions will explore:**

- 1) The needs, wants, expectations and recreation choices being made by our top 100 users.
- 2) How the quality of programming/facilities fulfill these recreation choices.
- 3) How users are learning about and registering for our programs and how we can make that experience a more efficient one for our users.

**Topic Area #1: Recreation Choices**

*Imagine that you have a weekend coming up that you can plan any way you want. How would you choose to spend your time with your family?*

**Moderator:**

What types of activities would your family CHOOSE to do?

What does your family enjoy?

Where would they choose to enjoy these activities?

Would you rather be indoors or outdoors?

**If indoors:**

Do you/your children enjoy indoor recreation activities like those found at the Foundation for Youth/Columbus Gymnastics Center?

Do you enjoy ice sports found at Hamilton Center?

What types of indoor activities could we offer that would be more appealing to your family?

**If outdoors:**

Do you enjoy golf? Do you golf as a family or as individuals?

What do you enjoy the most about Greenbelt/Par-3?

What can we improve upon?

(Similar questions for aquatics/sports/playgrounds)

Do you enjoy organized or open recreation activities? (i.e. Family Bingo Night vs. taking kids to the park). Which are you more likely to attend?

How much do your kids' desires for recreation activities drive your family's recreation choices?

***Would a "flex pass" (for 3-6 year olds) or gift card option entice you to try new activities?***

**Topic Area #2: Quality of Parks & Rec programming**  
*Imagine playing as a child. What words come to mind when describing your favorite memories of play?*

**Moderator:**

How important is the input of family/friends in your recreation choices with Columbus Parks & Rec?

Is your personal experience more/less/equal importance than what family/friends experience has been?

What qualities do you look for in recreation opportunities when choosing them for yourself or a family member?

How important is the quality of Parks & Recreation programming? What do we do better than others? What can we improve upon? (probe for specific examples)

If you could wish for any type of recreation program or facility in Columbus, what would it be?

**Topic Area #3: Public Relations/Registration**  
*How do you use the Internet?*

**Moderator:**

Do you use it more for work or play?

Do you use it more from home or from the office?

About how many hours a day do you spend online?

**If yes:** What types of information do you get from the Internet?  
What are your favorite websites?

Do you shop online? If so, what are some of your favorite online shopping sites?

Have you ever visited [www.columbusparksandrec.com](http://www.columbusparksandrec.com)? If so, how often?  
What did you like about the site? (Easy to use, useful information, etc.)  
How can we improve the site?

Would an Internet newsletter or other internet communications be helpful to you to inform you about our programs?

Would you still prefer to receive information in the mail from Columbus Parks & Rec in addition to Internet communications?

Have you registered for any Parks & Rec programs online?

***If yes:*** Did you find our registration system easier/as easy/harder to use than other registration methods (phone-in, mail-in, in person)?

***If no:*** Why not?

How can we improve our online registration experience?

***What other ways would you prefer to hear about our programs? (This could be current methods or new ideas brought forward by the group).***

## **FOCUS GROUP NOTES**

**August 8, 6 p.m.**

**Donner Center**

**Participants:** Wendy Brock, Martha Krempel, Jennifer Myers, Melissa Neal, Erin Russell, Isabelle Sciutto, Aaron Wilhoit, Barbara Wills and G. Fulkerson  
**Staff:** Katia Hatter, Cindy Brummett and Becky Fitzpatrick

### **CHOICES –**

#### **COMPLETELY FREE WEEKEND – HOW SPENT?**

- **PLAY IN PARK/PICNIC (OUTDOORS)**
- **PICNIC – LIKE TO USE DONNER PARK**
- **RIDE BIKES – SWIM**
- **FISHING – BALL GAMES – FREE SKATE**

**(MOST CHOSE OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES)**

#### **HAVE ANY OF YOU BEEN TO GREENBELT?**

##### **EXPERIENCE –**

- **GOOD EXPERIENCE – CROWDED**
- **FIND PAR 3 LESS INTIMIDATING AS A NOVICE GOLFER**
- **MORE DIFFICULTS AT GREENBELT**
- **SOME PARENTS DROP THEIR CHILDREN AT PAR 3 – THEY FEEL CONFIDENT DOING THAT – FEEL STAFF DOES A GOOD JOB**

#### **AT THE POOL – EXPERIENCE**

- **LOVE ADDITION OF PRE-SCHOOL SESSION LAST YEAR – GREAT**
- **LOVED VISITING THE POOL AND USING THE SLIDE – INCLUDED AS PART OF THE PARK PLAYGROUND FIELD TRIP**
- **KIDS LOVED – MADE MISTAKE OF COMING ON A FREE WED NIGHT – TOO CHAOTIC**
- **BRING KIDS TO LEARN TO SWIM LESSONS – TOO OFTEN ORGANIZED PLAY TIME – INSTEAD OF GETTING 35 MIN OF INSTRUCTION – GETTING TOO MUCH PLAY TIME**
- **BOY TEACHERS SEEM TO BE ON TASK MORE THAN GIRL INSTRUCTORS**
- **WE DID ONE ROUND OF SWIM LESSONS – WIFE WAS NOT HAPPY – NIGHT WHEN GUYS WERE TEACHING WERE MORE PRODUCTIVE**
- **THEY DID A GOOD JOB OF GETTING THEIR SON JOSH TO TREAD WATER – AT A FAMILY POOL PARTY JOSH WENT INTO WATER OVER HIS HEAD (AND THEY HAD NOT NOTICED) – HUSBAND SAW HOW HARD HE WAS SPLASHING AND REALIZED HE WAS TREADING WATER AND WAS ABLE TO KEEP HEAD ABOVE WATER**

#### **WITH OUTDOOR SPORTS EXPERIENCE – HOW HAS IT BEEN FOR YOU**

- **WE HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH SOCCER – CAN'T IMAGINE ORGANIZING THAT PROGRAM – AMAZING COMMUNICATION – INFO FROM COACHES**

BETTER, PICTURE PROCESS GREAT – OVER THE YEARS OF INVOLVEMENT HAS REALLY SEEN THE PROGRAM IMPROVE

- SOCCER CAMP AND TENNIS INST WAS VERY IMPRESSIVE
- MY CHILDREN REALLY ENJOYED THE TENNIS ALSO – THE INSTRUCTORS WERE GREAT AND THEY LEARNED A LOT
- WE REALLY ENJOYED THE SOCCER ALSO – THIS YEAR THEY TRIED A FUND RAISING PROCESS IN THE SPRING SEASON – DON'T THINK THAT IS SOMETHING I WANT TO SUPPORT IN THE FUTURE.
- WE WERE TOLD THE FUND RAISING WAS TO BUY NEW GOALS. WOULD PREFER TO DONATE TO PURCHASE GOALS RATHER THAN SELL ITEMS PEOPLE DON'T REALLY WANT
- DAUGHTER IS REALLY ENJOYING SOCCER BUT MISSED SPRING SEASON DUE TO MOVING FROM SEYMOUR - DISAPPOINTED
- VOLUNTEER COACHINGS WAS EXCELLENT – NOTHING BUT GOOD EXPERIENCES – COORDINATION IS AMAZING
- ONE THING THAT DOES WORRY ME IS THE NUMBER OF GIRLS DROPPING OUT AS THEY GET OLDER TO PLAY EXPRESS – SO THE GIRLS DON'T GET EXPOSED TO BEST COACHING – IMPROVING THEIR GAME

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE IDEA OF HAVING A FLEX PASS FOR THE 3-6 YEAR OLD AGE GROUP SO CHILDREN CAN TRY DIFFERENT PROGRAMS?

HOW HAVE YOUR INDOOR SPORTS EXPERIENCES BEEN?

- I THINK THAT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA. WE TRIED SKATING BUT HAD TO QUIT HALFWAY INTO IT. HUSBAND WAS DISAPPOINTED.
- LOTS GOING ON – EXPENSIVE
- WOULD IT HINDER THE PROGRESSION OF THE ENTIRE CLASS?
- WHAT WOULD IT COVER?
- WE ENJOYED THE GYMNASTICS – BUT TWICE WE REGISTERED AND CAME FOR THE CLASS AND GOT THERE AND WERE TOLD CLASS HAD BEEN CANCELLED. THE SECOND TIME THEY CALLED AS WE WERE READY TO LEAVE. – WOULD LIKE MORE NOTICE.
- SEEM TO HAVE A LOT OF INSTRUCTOR TURNOVER – WANT TO SEE CONSISTENCY OF INSTRUCTORS (GYM AND SKATING)
- OPEN GYM IS A GOOD WAY TO INTRODUCE CHILDREN TO THE GYM CENTER
- EVERYTHING WE HAVE EVER DONE THERE HAS BEEN A GOOD EXPERIENCE. TODAY WE WENT TO INTRO TO HOCKEY CLASS AND THEY HAD MADE A CHANGE TO THE SCHEDULE AND WE EXPECTED BIG DISAPPOINTMENT BUT STAFF TOOK DAUGHTER OUT ON THE SMALL RINK AND GAVE HER A MINI SESSION - SHE WAS THRILLED
- ICE SHOW IS FANTASTIC – FOLKS WORK SO HARD – QUALITY PRODUCTION
- ONE CONCERN MY HUSBAND HAS IS THE SHORTAGE OF HOCKEY REFEREES AVAILABLE – USING THE SAME ONES OVER AND OVER – INCIDENTS WITH COACHES
- THAT IS A PROBLEM WITH A SHORTAGE OF OFFICIALS IN ALL SPORTS

- SOCCER USES HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO COVER THE GAMES
- HOCKEY NEEDS TO HAVE FOLKS WHO CAN SKATE – ADDITIONAL CHALLENGE
- WE ENJOY HOCKEY AND APPRECIATE HAVING THE SKATE SALE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SEASON – MY HUSBAND AND I SKATE ON THE ADULT LEAGUE – WE REALLY ENJOY BUT WISH THE GAMES WERE EARLIER

#### INPUT OF FAMILIES AND FRIENDS – HOW YOU MAKE THE CHOICE OF WHERE YOU WANT TO PARTICIPATE?

- WE DO TALK TO FRIENDS – WHAT LOOKS LIKE FUN? GET MORE FRIENDS INVOLVED. YOUR SCHEDULING IS REALLY DONE WELL SO THINGS DON'T OVERLAP AND CHILDREN CAN PARTICIPATE IN A NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES.
- WHEN MY CHILDREN WERE YOUNGER IT WAS IMPORTANT TO BE INVOLVED WITH FRIENDS - AS THEY HAVE GOTTEN OLDER THEY MAKE FRIENDS WITHIN THEIR ACTIVITIES.
- LIVING WHERE WE LIVE, WE HAVE A LOT OF OPTIONS – DUE TO THE QUALITY OF PROGRAMMING HERE; WE CHOOSE TO BRING OUR CHILDREN HERE. CONFIDENT IN THE ABILITY OF THE STAFF HERE. RETURN DUE TO THE QUALITY OF PROGRAMS.
- WE HAVE LIVED IN LARGER COMMUNITIES THAT DID NOT OFFER THE VARIETY OF PROGRAMS THAT COL OFFERS. STAFF - VERY NICE TO WORK WITH.
- WORD OF MOUTH IMPORTANT – REVIEWING THE BROCHURE
- STARTS WITH WORD OF MOUTH- BUT
- SWIMMING – HAVE HEARD THAT CHILDREN DON'T LEARN – SO LOOKED FOR OTHER AVENUES FOR SWIM INSTRUCTION – ACTIVITIES SUCH AS SPORTS CAMPS, ETC WERE REALLY PLEASED WITH
- STAFF ABLE TO HANDLE CHALLENGES – CHILDREN HAVE GROWN WITH THE EXPERIENCES THEY HAVE HAD WITH DEPT ACTIVITIES
- WE LIVE IN AN EXCEPTIONAL COMMUNITY – IT MAKES IT EASIER TO ORGANIZE SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS

#### WHAT DO WE DO BETTER – WHAT CAN WE IMPROVE ON?

- NOTIFICATION OF CANCELLATION COULD BE IMPROVED –
- CAMP SUPER KIDS – DISAPPOINTED THAT COOKOUT WAS CANCELLED DUE THE POSSIBILITY OF RAIN – KIDS WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO – PARENTS DISAPPOINTED TOO
- AT DAY CAMP – A PROBLEM WITH CHILDREN GETTING OUT OF ROOM WHERE CAMP WAS HELD WITHOUT PARENT – RESPONSE WITH CHECK OUT SYSTEM STARTED VERY NEXT DAY – VERY IMPRESSIVE
- MY CHILDREN WANTED TO PARTICIPATE IN TENNIS BUT SCHEDULE NOT REAL GOOD FOR WORKING PARENTS – MORE TENNIS LESSONS/SPORTS CAMPS IN THE EVENING.
- FREE CONCERTS – THEY ARE WONDERFUL – ENJOY THEM – THE FAMILY BINGO IS REALLY GREAT TO



- THE SUMMER PLAYGROUND PROGRAM – I LOVE IT – IT'S GREAT
- HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT DOING IT AT SCHOOLS ON SATURDAYS DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR?
- MY KIDS REALLY GET ATTACHED TO THE CAMP INSTRUCTORS – WOULD LIKE TO SEE THEM DURING THE YEAR
- CAMP MAD – NEED LIST OF WHAT IS NEEDED EARLIER – SENT PERMISSION SLIP FOR CANOING BUT THEY DIDN'T GET TO GO – LITTLE DISAPPOINTED – BUT WANT TO RETURN NEXT YAR
- WE WERE DISAPPOINTED IS SKATING CLASS – INSTRUCTOR CHANGE
- THE INSTRUCTOR WHO TAUGHT MY DAUGHTER PREVIOUSLY WASN'T THERE – LITTLE DISAPPOINTED –
- THERE WAS SOME DISORGANIZATION IN THE INTRO TO HOCKEY CLASSES THIS SUMMER.
- NEED MORE STRUCTURE IN THE INTRO CLASSES

WHAT TYPE OF PROGRAM/FACILITIES DO WE NEED?

- ROCK CLIMBING (OUTSIDE)

IF YOU THINK OF ANYTHING – LET ME KNOW

- SUGGESTION – AFTER SCHOOL TRACK PROGRAM – TEACHER TRIED LAST YEAR – LOTS OF INTEREST –
- KIDS LIKE TO RUN – ENJOY SOCCER
- SHOOTING FACILITY (SKEET, ETC) – TEACHING OPPORTUNITY – NOT MANY FACILITIES AVAILABLE – GOOD FACILITIES NEEDED – KNOW GUY WHO WENT TO COLLEGE ON SHOOTING SCHOLARSHIP
- BOWLING ACTIVITIES
- VOLLEYBALL – HAVE OPEN VOLLEYBALL NIGHTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL AGE AND ABOVE
- WOULD ENJOY HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY WITH CHILDREN IN A NON-COMPETITIVE ATMOSPHERE
- GO CART TRACK

ON LINE REGISTRATION –

HAVE THEY USED?

WAS IT EASY TO USE WEB SITE- YES

- ON-LINE REGISTRATION IS EASY TO USE

WOULD YOU MIND E-MAIL CONTACT?

- NOT GOOD TO HAVE IT AS THE ONLY WAY TO CONTACT ME – BETTER TO USE AS A REMINDER – MIGHT MISS

A LOT OF YOU MENTIONED THE FUN GUIDE – IS THAT A GOOD WAY TO GET EVERYTHING TO YOU? ANYTHING WE SHOULD CHANGE?

- LIKE GETTING IT IN THE MAIL

**ARE THERE OTHER WAYS WE SHOULD CONTACT YOU?**

- **LIKE GETTING THE POSTCARDS FOR SOCCER**

**ANYTHING ELSE WE HAVE NOT DISCUSSED?**

- **I WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE FAMILY BINGOS – MAYBE ADD ONE IN THE WINTER TOO**
- **KIDS DISAPPOINTED THAT PUBLIC SKATING WAS ONLY ON FRI NIGHTS DURING THE SUMMER?**
- **HOW MANY FAMILIES ARE IN THE DATA BASE?**
- **BECKY SAID OVER 4,000. (THIS IS NOT CORRECT)**
- **PUBLICITY – IF THERE IS INVOLVEMENT TO LINK IN MORE WITH THE PE PROGRAM IN THE SCHOOLS TO GET THE WORD OUT.**
- **THE STUFF THE KIDS GET WITH THE CAMPS IS AMAZING – KIDS ARE SO EXCITED ABOUT WHAT THEY GET AFTER A WEEK LONG CAMP (T-SHIRTS, BALLS, ETC. – DEPENDING ON THE CAMP)**
- **NEED TO PUBLICIZE THE SKATE RINK MORE – TO SURROUNDING AREAS ALSO – BROUGHT A LOT OF FOLKS TO THE RINK WITH THE SKATE SHOW – THEY WERE EXCITED TO SEE THE FACILITY – WERE INTERESTED AND IT IS NOT AVAILABLE IN A LOT OF AREAS**
- **BASEBALL – IT WOULD BE GOOD IF EVALUATION DAY COULD BE SET FOR ALL LEVELS BEFORE REGISTRATION BEGINS SO FOLKS CAN BE TOLD WHEN THEY REGISTER.**

**FOCUS GROUP NOTES  
AUGUST 10, 2006  
DONNER CENTER**

**Participants: Amanda Bailey, Laura Decker, Jalene Hahn, Diane Hammond, Kris Medic, Kari Nusterer, Mandy Skelton, Natalie Stine, Julia Stumpff, Tammy Tucker, Randy Tuttle and Luci Van Valer**

**Staff: Katia Hatter, Chuck Wilt, Nancy Armuth, Michelle Prowant, Cindy Brummett and Becky Fitzpatrick**

**FOCUS GROUPS - PLAN TO DO PERIODICALLY TO SEE HOW WE ARE DOING**

**HOW ARE WE DOING – HOW CAN WE IMPROVE IN THE FUTURE**

**YOU HAVE EACH BEEN ID AS ONE OF OUR TOP USER FAMILIES**

**HELP WITH OUR LONG RANGE PLANNING – PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE**

**NO RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWERS – WANT TO HEAR NEGATIVE TOO, TO HELP US IMPROVE**

**EVERYONE INTRO THEMSELVES AND MENTIONED SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES THAT THEIR CHILDREN HAD BEEN INVOLVED WITH**

**HOW DO YOU MAKE YOUR CHOICES ON WHAT YOU WANT TO DO ON AN OPEN WEEKEND – HOW WOULD YOUR FAMILY CHOOSE TO FILL THAT TIME?**

- STAY HOME
- SWIM – KIDS ALWAYS WANT TO SWIM
- CERLAND
- RODE BIKES – PLAYED TENNIS
- OUTDOOR STUFF GENERALLY – EXPLORE AREAS IN REGION
- STATE PARK – NOT TOO FAR FROM HOME

**IN TERMS OF OUTDOOR ACTIVITY – SEEMS POPULAR – DO ANY OF YOU OR YOUR FAMILY PLAY GOLF – DO YOU PLAY AT GREENBELT OR PAR 3?**

- MY SON HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN THE GOLF PROGRAM AT PAR 3 – VERY ENJOYABLE – DROP SON OFF AT PAR 3 – GOOD PROGRAM – FEEL VERY COMFORTABLE DROPPING HIM AND FRIEND OFF TO PLAY – KNOW SEVERAL PARENTS WHO DO THIS.
- DON'T DROP SON OFF BECAUSE PLAYING WITH HIM IS MY EXCUSE TO GET TO PLAY MYSELF – STAFF GOOD IN PRO SHOP
- HAVE TAKEN KIDS TO DRIVING RANGE (AGES 3 & 5) – WISH THERE WAS INSTRUCTION FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN – GO TO PLAYGROUND ALL THE TIME – KIDS LOVE ANY ACTIVITY THAT INVOLVES A BALL

- NOTHING AVAILABLE FOR KIDS THEIR AGE. MAYBE 3 IS A LITTLE YOUNG BUT THE 5 YEAR OLD DEFINITELY WOULD LIKE TO DO – DO YOU HAVE TENNIS?
- YOU DO HAVE THE CITY LEAGUE THING – I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW UNTIL LATE THAT IT WAS OFFERED
- ISN'T THE MIN AGE FOR GOLF INSTRUCTION 8? I AGREE THAT I WOULD LIKE TO SEE GOLF ADDED FOR YOUNGER GOLFERS

I WOULD LIKE TO GET YOUR EXPERIENCES WITH SWIM LESSONS AT DONNER

- I WAS VERY IMPRESSED – VERY GOOD INSTRUCTORS
- LAST YEAR I HAD A 4 YR OLD AND A 6 YEAR OLD LAST YEAR. THE OLDER CHILD WAS BORED – YOUNGER DID FINE
- MY CHILD HAD TOO MUCH TIME PLAYING – NEED TO ID KIDS WHO ARE COMFORTABLE IN WATER FROM THOSE WHO AREN'T AND TEACH THOSE WHO ARE REALLY INTERESTED IN LEARNING – WE WERE BACK THIS YEAR AND THE LESSONS WERE MUCH BETTER
- LEVEL 1 IS FOR BECOMING COMFORTABLE – NEED TO START HIGHER – LEVELS 3 AND 4 IS WHEN INSTRUCTION ACTUALLY BEGINS
- EVERY YEAR MY CHILDREN HAVE LEARNED SOMETHING – NOT LEARNING A WHOLE LOT
- NO PLACE TO TAKE MY “TODDLER” WHO WAS REALLY READY TO LEARN TO SWIM. THE DONNER SWIM CLUB PROGRAM IS A COMPETITIVE PROGRAM – CAN THERE JUST BE LAP SWIMMING FOR OLDER KIDS TO PERFECT THEIR SWIMMING BUT THOSE WHO DON'T WANT TO BE IN A CLASS WITH A BUNCH OF REAL YOUNG CHILDREN.
- MY SON LOVES BASEBALL BUT STINKS – LOOKING AT NEXT YEAR AS BEING HIS LAST YEAR IN BASEBALL THAT'S WHY HE HAS TAKEN UP GOLF.
- KIDS ALSO WANT TO LAP SWIM WITHOUT THE COMMITMENT OF PARTICIPATING IN A SWIM TEAM.
- WISH POOL WAS OPEN EACH NIGHT UNTIL 8 –(KATIA NOTED HOURS THAT POOL IS OPEN)
- DIDN'T GO TO POOL THIS SUMMER DUE TO PRICE INCREASE
- IF YOU HAVE A LOT OF KIDS EVEN A SINGLE VISITS ADD UP – EVERY TIME WE GO TO DONNER OUR KIDS GET AN EAR INFECTION – BOTTOM OF THE POOL IS REALLY ROUGH
- WE APPRECIATE GETTING THE PASSES TO THE POOL WITH THE LIBRARY READING PROGRAM – WE VISIT THE POOL IN THE EVENINGS – SATURDAY MORNING PRE-SCHOOL SESSION WAS GREAT
- POOL RENTALS IN 1 HOUR INCREMENTS ONLY – SUGGEST DOING THIS ON HALF HOURS ALSO.

#### **EXPERIENCE WITH SPORTS PROGRAMS – PLAYGROUND PROGRAM**

- MY BOYS HAVE PLAYED SOCCER – WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE ACTIVITIES FOR AGES 3 AND 4 – WOULD REALLY LIKE TO SEE SOCCER ADDED FOR THIS AGE AT P&R. IF PARENT WILLING TO PAY – DON'T SEE WHY THEY CAN'T PARTICIPATE
- WE HAVE ALWAYS COACHED UNTIL THIS YEAR. FRUSTRATING TO NOT GET ANY SUPPORT – GOT A LOT OF KIDS WHO HAD NEVER PLAYED – WERE NOT SURE THEY WANTED TO PLAY – GOT A COUPLE OF KIDS ON LAST TEAM WHO HAD DEVELOPMENTAL PROBLEMS – NEED TO BE INFORMED IF A CHILD HAS A PROBLEM SO COACH CAN DEAL WITH – NEED TO HAVE AGE CUT OFFS TO ALLOW KIDS TO LEARN MORE SKILLS – SOME KIDS MAY BE FURTHER ALONG BUT HOPEFULLY YOU WON'T END UP WITH TEAMS WHOSE KIDS DON'T WANT TO PLAY AND CONTINUE TO THROW TANTRUMS.
- I HAVE SEEN OLDER KIDS GET OUT THERE AND ACT INAPPROPRIATELY. YOU GET PARENTS WHO DROP OFF THEIR KIDS, ARRIVE LATE AND LEAVE EARLY BUT WANT THEIR KIDS TO BE OUT PLAYING THE WHOLE GAME.
- NEED GUIDELINES AND STRUCTURE BUT NEED MANDATE FOR PARENTS TO FOLLOW.
- IMPORTANT FOR CHILDREN TO HELP OUT WITH YOUNGER CHILDREN.
- PARENTS NEED TO BE AVAILABLE TO HELP OUT WITH CHILDREN.
- SCHEDULING – HUSBAND WANTS TO SET CERTAIN DAYS TO GO INTO TOWN – NO ACTIVITIES HAPPENING BETWEEN 1:30-4:30 FOR CHILDREN. SOME DAYS WE WERE IN TOWN FROM 9 A.M. TO 5 PM. WE DO A LOT OF DROPPING OFF SO EACH CHILD CAN BE WHERE THEY NEED TO BE.
- ADD TO COACH SUPPORT COMMENTS – IF THERE CAN BE A HEADS UP FOR COACHES SO THEY CAN MOTIVATE THE CHILD – ASK A QUESTION AT TIME OF REGISTRATION SO COACH CAN BE AWARE – “ARE THERE ANY SPECIAL NEEDS WE SHOULD BE AWARE OF”
- FROM PRE-SCHOOL ON – PARENTS ARE USED TO BEING ASKED THESE QUESTIONS – DON'T SEE ANY HELP IN THIS AREA BY P&R

#### **DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS ABOUT OTHER SPORTS PROGRAM SET-UP**

- I LIKE THE FACT THAT BASEBALL TRYOUTS ARE NO LONGER HELD – THEY HAVE EVALUATIONS – GOOD TO HAVE COMPETITIVE AND NON-COMPETITIVE LEAGUES. WOULD LIKE TO SEE SAME IN SOCCER.
- DONE AN EXCELLENT JOB IN OFFERING U 14 SOCCER LEAGUE VERY BALANCED LEAGUES ON GIRLS SIDE

#### **DAY CAMPS / RECREATIONAL CAMP INVOLVEMENT**

- MY KIDS DID DISNEY – LOVED
- MY KIDS LOVED CAMP

- MY CHILD TOTALLY LOVED CAMP MAD LAST YEAR – NOT AS IMPRESSED WITH THIS YEARS PROGRAM. CAMP MUSIC, DRAMA – NOT ACTUALLY DONE – COST A LOT BUT NOT ACTUALLY DONE – NEED MORE STRUCTURE TO THAT CAMP
- SUPER SNOOPS – MY CHILD DOES NOT LIKE TO BE LEFT – THEY PROVIDED EXTRA ATTENTION TO MY SON SO HE DID NOT FREAK OUT – REALLY APPRECIATE THAT ATTENTION – GREAT IDEAS ON FINDING CLUES – REALLY RELEVANT MATERIAL – GOOD TO SEE APPLIED EXPERIENCE
- LAST YEAR MY SON WENT TO HALF DAY AT YOUTH CAMP LAST YEAR – GOOD EXPERIENCE – (CB - I THINK THIS IS A FFY CAMP) – PROVIDE PARENTS WITH AN IDEA OF WHAT THEY DO AT CAMP EACH WEEK
- SON WENT TO BASKETBALL CAMP – IMPRESSED WITH KIDS WHO TAUGHT THAT COURSE
- STEPPED UP SECURITY OF KID DROP OFF AND PICK UP PROCESS – NEED TO BE COMFORTABLE WITH PROCESS
- MY DAUGHTER DIDN'T REALLY ENJOY FFY CAMP

#### **EXPERIENCES WITH INDOOR FACILITY – GYM CENTER/HC ICE ARENA**

- LOVE THE ICE ARENA – SON REALLY LOOKS FORWARD TO TEACHERS ARE GREAT
- COMPLAINT – NOT ENOUGH OPEN SKATING – TOT SESSIONS AT NAP TIME – WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORNING SESSION
- NEED FOR SKATING CLASSES FOR OLDER NON-COMPETITIVE CHILDREN – MORE THAN RECREATIONAL SKATING
- SIGNED UP FOR CLASS FOR AGES 7-14 AT GYM CENTER – CLASS WAS MOSTLY AGE 7 AND MY 14 YEAR OLD DAUGHTER FELT VERY UNCOMFORTABLE WITH JUST YOUNGER CHILDREN. MAYBE HAVE A CLASS FOR TEEN AGE CHILDREN – INTERESTED IN LEARNING
- KIDS HAVE TAKEN TUMBLING – GOING THROUGH TRANSITION WHERE CHILDREN WERE RATED ON SKILLS WHICH I THOUGHT WAS A GOOD IDEA – THAT STOPPED WHICH WAS A PROBLEM – HAD ADULT INSTRUCTORS – TRANSITION BACK AND FORTH MADE TEACHERS SEEM LOST – HAVE HEARD FROM OTHER PARENTS THAT THEY ARE MOVING THEIR CHILDREN TO OTHER FACILITIES BECAUSE TEACHERS SEEM TO HAVE LOST FOCUS.
- MY SON WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE BUT NO DIRECTION FOR BOYS PROGRAM
- APPRECIATE THAT YOU HAVE A BOYS CLASS – HOPE BOYS CLASS CAN BE ADDED FOR YOUNGER BOYS TOO. BOYS ARE ALL OVER THE PLACE – GOOD TO ADD AS PROGRAM DEVELOPS
- BOYS MORE INSTRUCTION IN LARGE MOTOR SKILLS – DID BETTER WHEN OTHER BOYS PARTICIPATED IN CLASS
- ALSO A PROBLEM WITH CONCENTRATING WITH POWER CHEER MUSIC BLASTING AND TRYING TO TEACH YOUNG CHILDREN -



PARKS AND REC CLASSES CAN'T HEAR TO KNOW WHAT THEY NEED TO BE DOING

- COULDN'T HELP BUT FEEL YOU WERE TOTALLY SECONDARY WITH THE OTHER ACTIVITY GOING ON - (CHEER TEAM)
- IT WOULD BE NICE IF I COULD TAKE MY CHILDREN TO TUMBLING WHILE I GO INTO THE GYM TO DO PILATES OR YOGA DURING THAT TIME
- (COMMENT ) - THERE IS A WEIGHT ROOM DOWNSTAIRS
- I AM REALLY DISAPPOINTED IN THE PLAYGROUNDS - CAME FROM GERMANY - BUT WITH PLAYGROUNDS HERE THERE IS LITTLE THERE THAT MY 3 YEAR OLD CAN'T DO - MY 5 YEAR OLD CAN SCALE ANYTHING THERE - NEED SOMETHING MORE CHALLENGING. TOO BAD THAT AT 5, PLAYGROUNDS AREN'T REALLY TOO MUCH FUN ANY MORE. I WAS REALLY NOT UNHAPPY WITH PLAYGROUNDS UNTIL I VISITED GERMANY - THE PLAYGROUNDS THERE ARE FANTASTIC - THEY HAVE LOTS OF WATER FEATURES THEY TURN WATER ON MAY 1 AND OFF IN LATE SEPT. LOTS OF WATER AND SAND - LOTS MORE CHALLENGING THINGS TO DO. PLAY PIECES THAT MOVE UP AND DOWN - IT MAKES KIDS THINK. PROGRAMS HERE ARE VERY AFFORDABLE - KNOW WE ARE LUCKY BUT WOULD LIKE TO SEE WATER FEATURE/ROPE STRUCTURES ADDED.

ONE OF THE THINGS WE TALKED ABOUT AS A STAFF IS S FLEX PASS - WHAT IS YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT THIS? WE ARE WORKING ON THE SPECIFICS OF THIS - TO SEE WHAT YOUR CHILD MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN.

- MIGHT BE KIND OF NICE - MY OLDEST SON WHEN HE WAS TRYING SKATING, HE FELL - INSTRUCTOR YELLED AT HIM TO GET UP AND THAT SHE WASN'T GOING TO HELP HIM UP - THEN THE INSTRUCTOR SKATED OFF. AT THAT TIME I WENT OUT AND PICKED HIM UP AND PULLED HIM OUT OF CLASS. TO THIS DAY HE HASN'T LEARNED TO SKATE AND HE IS NOW 14.
- GOOD FOR TEENS TO HAVE ANY OPPORTUNITY TOO SEE NEED TO PARTICIPATE FOR FULL SESSION TO GET EXPOSURE. NEED THAT TIME TO GET COMFORTABLE.
- MAY WANT TO CONSIDER - HAVE RECRUITMENT SESSIONS WHERE THEY CAN TRY IT

HOW IMPORTANT WHEN MAKING A DECISION IS INPUT FROM FAMILIES/FRIENDS

- HEAR WORD OF MOUTH
- USE WEB SITE ALL THE TIME
- THE FUN GUIDE NEEDS TO COME OUT SOONER - TRYING TO PLAN NOW FOR DECEMBER - DON'T HAVE INFO - WOULD LIKE TO HAVE MUCH SOONER

- FUN GUIDE VERY INFORMATIVE – REALLY NEED TO HAVE GUIDE COME OUT BEFORE ACTIVITY BEGINS – FOR CONVENIENCE OF CUSTOMERS
- LIKE WELLNESS PROGRAM
- FOR THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN IN THE COMMUNITY BEFORE – YOU KIND OF KNOW WHEN PROGRAMS BEGIN – THAT KIND OF INFO MAYBE SHOULD GO ON THE WEBSITE. LITTLE VARIANCE NORMALLY.
- CALENDAR ON THE WEBSITE – YOU KNOW LIKE WHEN SOCCER REGISTRATIONS AND BASEBALL REGISTRATIONS ARE FROM YEAR TO YEAR
- LOVE GETTING THE POSTCARDS TO REMIND OF SOCCER - WOULD LIKE TO GET PAAL FOOTBALL INFO IN THERE ALSO - MAYBE INCLUDE PAGE WITH OTHER RECREATION PROGRAMS OFFERED IN AREA SO PARENTS ARE INFORMED – MAYBE INCLUDE CONTACT INFO IN FUN GUIDE AND ON WEB SITE
- WENT TO SIGN UP FOR PAAL BUT NO LEAGUE FOR 13 YEAR OLD – GRADES DON'T ALLOW HIM TO PLAY FOR JR HS

DO YOU THINK THE QUALITY/PRICE OF OUR PROGRAMS IS ONE REASON YOU PARTICIPATE

- COST
- THANKFUL FOR SCHEDULING THAT ALLOWS FOR KIDS OF ALL AGE GROUPS TO PARTICIPATE ABOUT SAME TIME.
- ICE SKATING SCHEDULE WORKS WELL FOR THAT.
- MAKE KIDS CHOOSE ONE ACTIVITY PER SESSION
- QUALITY OF PROGRAMS

DEFINE QUALITY FOR EACH PROGRAM – ARE WE MEETING QUALITY

- IMPRESSED WITH FACILITIES – GYM CENTER IS CLEAN – ICE RINK IS FANTASTIC. WHILE I HAVE MY GRIPEs ABOUT PLAYGROUNDS – THE QUALITY OF PARKS IS FANTASTIC.
- PEOPLE TRAILS ARE A BLESSING. WISH THEY WOULD EXTEND TO OUR HOUSE.
- CAN GO FROM ONE END OF TOWN TO ANOTHER
- IMPRESSIVE
- WOULD BE GOOD TO HAVE AN ARTS PROGRAM SIMILAR TO YOUR SPORTS PROGRAM.
- SIGNED UP FOR ART PROGRAMS BUT EVERYTHING SIGNED UP FOR HAS BEEN CANCELLED. DISAPPOINTED – MAYBE P&R SHOULD TAKE OVER AND ADD THEIR PROFESSIONALISM TO IT. KIDS ARE REALLY INTERESTED IN ART.

IF WE COULD OFFER ANY PROGRAM OR FACILITY THAT WE ARE NOT CURRENTLY OFFERING?

- WE NEED TO WORK ON THE COMMONS PLAYGROUND – EMBARRASSING
- I THINK CARPET WAS THEIR WHEN I WAS A CHILD
- IN THE WINTER – THAT IS HUGELY IMPORTANT – KIDS NEED TO HAVE A PLACE TO PLAY DURING THE WINTER. IN GERMANY THE INDOOR PLAYGROUNDS WERE PHENOMINAL.
- IN EUROPE THEY HAD INDOOR PLAYGROUNDS THAT CHILDREN PAID TO VISIT. THEY WERE VERY POPULAR.
- LOTS OF FOLKS WHO USE THE COMMONS PLAYGROUND WOULD BE GLAD TO HELP SUPPORT THE PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS.
- WAS EXCITED WHEN THERE WAS TALK ABOUT IMPROVING THE PLAYGROUND BUT NOTHING HAS HAPPENDED.
- PARK THAT WAS A NATURE CENTER (ARBORITUM) PONDS, ETC
- FOUNTAINS THAT KIDS COULD RUN THROUGH
- KIDS LOVE THE WATER PLAYGROUND AT THE ZOO
- GIRLS BASEBALL – DAUGHTER WOULD LOVE TO PLAY – PROGRAM OFFERED IN JENNINGS CO
- ROLLER HOCKEY
- PARK WITH “ANIMAL SHAPES” THAT KIDS COULD CLIMB
- ARTISTIC PARK – WHIMSY FOR KIDS – START SMALL COULD DEVELOP INTO A REALLY UNIQUE FACILITY
- CHAMPAIGN SPONSORED FLOWER GARDENS ALLOVER THE COMMUNITY – MAKES THE COMMUNITY SO BEAUTIFUL. – GOOD JOB FOR TEENS WATERING AND DEADHEADING
- FAMILY BASED ACTIVITIES – GREAT TOUR DE TRAIL
- MONTHLY FAMILY BIKE RIDES
- WHOLE FAMILY ENJOYS BIKING
- UNIQUE EVENT IN SUMMER – TWO ARMIES ON EACH SIDE WITH LONG RANGE WATER BALLOON FIGHT – FAMILY OLYMPICS

#### **EXPERIENCES WITH WEBSITE –**

- HAD PROBLEM WITH GETTING TO WEBSITE THIS MORNING
- I HAVE PROBLEM NAVIGATING
- NOT A GOOD WEBSITE – NOT A LOT OF MEANINGFUL INFORMATION ON THE WEBSITE
- NEVER TRIED TO REGISTER ONLINE
- ALWAYS CALL IN TO REGISTER
- I NOW ALWAYS REGISTER ONLINE
- YOUR WEBSITE IS BETTER THAN PAAL
- WOULD LIKE TO GET E-MAIL ABOUT WHEN TO SIGN UP FOR VARIOUS ACTIVITIES
- SEVERAL OTHERS AGREED THEY WOULD APPRECIATE E-MAILS
- WOULD LIKE TO SEE COMPREHENSIVE CALENDAR IN THE FUN GUIDE
- APPRECIATE BEING ABLE TO WALK IN OR DROP OFF

- REGISTRATIONS – DON'T LIKE TO HAVE CREDIT CARD INFO AVAILABLE.
- SUGGEST ASKING PEOPLE WHEN REGISTERING WHETHER THEY WOULD LIKE TO DONATE MONEY FOR ACTIVITIES FOR LESS FORTUNATE CHILDREN - THINK PEOPLE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING ASKED.

WANT TO KEEP IN TOUCH -

**Appendix I**  
**Interviews – Appendix I - 5**

**Beth Morris – Healthy Communities  
Master Plan Questions  
2006**

- 1. In the next 5 years what changes do you predict for Healthy Communities? What impact will these changes have on your relationship with the parks department?**

Self-care action team. We need to get more and more focused on young people. Much of this will be school based but will need a lot of support through our community partnership. Our staff has been exceedingly helpful and responsible for what we do.

- 2. What facilities, improvements and equipment are lacking from the parks system which prevents community from fully utilizing the parks system?**

Continuing to develop the people trails is a high priority for encouraging healthy lifestyles.

More funds for youth scholarships continue to be an issue.

Additional greenspace is something to continue to pursue.

- 3. What can the parks department do to increase awareness of and participation in programs and activities?**

Brochure – direct mail

Improved website

Continue cross promotion of activities

Social service community – get word out on scholarships.  
First Call for Help – Messages to social service community.

Ann Dolan –

- 4. What do you believe should be the major goals and objectives of the parks department during the next five years?**

Focus on children improving fitness and sedentary lifestyle.

How do you help parents enjoy their children?

Intergenerational approach family approach – family approach to improved fit lifestyle

Go on trail – pass out coupons on trails – encourage trail use



**Bob Pitman – Senior Center  
Master Plan Questions  
2006**

- 1. What changes do you predict for your organization in the next five years? What impact will these changes have on your relationship with the parks department?**

Mill Race Center – will have major impact – more responsibility on both parties \_\_\_\_\_ Friends of Parks can be a benefit. Parks be represented at Mill Race Center. Adult community center – program 8 – 10 p.m. – more active seniors. Parks program will be more important to younger seniors.

- 2. What facilities, improvements and equipment are lacking from the parks system which prevents your constituency from fully utilizing the parks system?**

Mill Race Center will address that P/R is very proactive in terms of accessibility for all segments of the community.

- 3. What can the parks department do to increase awareness of and participation in programs and activities?**

Partnering – fun guide – good way to promote more things than what P/R does. P/R key leader in recreation activities and leisure – market as a collaboration. Prime time in Republic – Cross training Park/FFY/Sr. Center staff.

- 4. What do you believe should be the major goals and objectives of the parks department during the next five years?**

Help community respond to demographic changes taking place.

Increasing diversity/respond to it.

Play a major role in helping to raise health status of community.

Providing a new quality leisure time activities that respond to changing interests.

Social Status  
Reduces stress

Involve Director/More communication with:

City and County – look at growing needs of seniors and how collaboration will work to enable Sr. Center to be effective.

- Facility Operating Costs – Public support - City and County – \$44K now
- Underwriting cost of recreation staff – +City and County

partnership needed.

- . 85% Self funded currently
- . Meet need for public parties
- . Strategic Finance Committee to be established
  - 2 Housing Communities      2008 pay off
  - Cambridge Square      2009 pay off

How can you utilize revenues - \$60k/year or sell and establish endowment

Old Center value 2mm/4mm = \$200,000 annually for operating budget

**David Westenberger – FFY  
Master Plan Questions  
2006**

- 1. What changes do you predict for your organization in the next five years? What impact will these changes have on your relationship with the parks department?**

The number of people we serve will continue to increase.

The facility capacity soon will be full and we will have to either expand or look to parks and schools.

Look at different shared use of gym center FFY.

Different shared use of gym center.

The impact will be expanding use – more hours weekends – more maintenance support. There are major maintenance issues that will result including swimming pool repairs and mechanical issues.

20 year roof/parking lots/mechanical equipment will begin to have to be renovated, repaired or replaced.

- 2. What facilities, improvements and equipment are lacking from the parks system which prevents your constituency from fully utilizing the parks system?**

Review the process for equipment and replacement and service. Put mower on same lease and maintenance program as rest of parks department (walker mower) process issue.

What equipment do we need to manage the building/service/lease/

Park Department is the expert – we need to include FFY in the same process.

- 3. What can the parks department do to increase awareness of and participation in programs and activities?**

We need to take advantage of cross marketing – basketball, soccer, baseball, ice skating and gymnastics in our advertising brochures.

(Camp)→

Our Marketing Coordinators should work as a team.

**4. What do you believe should be the major goals and objectives of the parks department during the next five years?**

Refocus on P/R activities for people in community.

(Floor at Pool) → Locker room

We need to evaluate our tournament involvement. We want to make sure tournaments don't reduce our time and focus on providing local family facilities and activities.

Great family activities/great facilities

Our Goals/Objectives for the future should be centered around partnering, joint programs and complementing each other's strengths.

More partnering/hosting tournaments

Do everything that parks doesn't do

More joint programs

What does FFY do really well? What does P/R do well – communicate more. We don't need to duplicate each other.

We need to build a team relationship with FFY/Parks and Rec staff and continue to have shared vision and goal.

Any kind of relationship development – social involvement

Interactive experiences that don't focus around the work we do.

Positive relationships }

Shared vision }

Our shared vision should be around quality programs and facilities for kids. It is important to build our team through social, interactive experiences with our staffs. We want to serve all kids regardless of their economic status.

**Doug Leonard – Columbus Regional Hospital  
Master Plan Questions  
2006**

- 1. In the next 5 years what changes do you predict for CRH? What impact will these changes have on your relationship with the parks department?**

Try to be as good at what we can be at what we offer. Paring down services we don't have to offer that we have to subsidize. Trying to reach best marks on clinical performance. Mission to patient crosses over to business strategy. Medically supported fitness facility – now priority. Good commercial alternative facilities now in town. Focus on employees – personal health appraisals – pay my 800 employees – Fitness life-style improvements

Wellness still important but a break event situation at best. Might be interested in development center for physical therapy – has interest.

Update facility master plan – all private rooms.

- 2. What facilities, improvements and equipment are lacking from the parks system which prevents CRH from fully utilizing the parks system?**

Recruiters need update of what we have to offer. P?R facilities ..... Indoor facility.

Lindy Kirk

It is the feeling that our parks and recreation facilities are a real selling point to help the hospital recruit new doctors, nurses, other personnel. The hospital would like regular communication – updates concerning our facilities and programs.

Over the next 5 years there will be more.

- 3. What can the parks department do to increase awareness of and participation in programs and activities?**

Web presence needs to be improved.

- 4. What do you believe should be the major goals and objectives of the parks department during the next five years?**

(Stay on course with openness to change.)

The parks and recreation department should continue to stay on course with being open to change and new ideas.

**Warren Baumgart – CAAC  
Master Plan Questions  
2006**

- 1. In the next 5 years what changes do you predict with CAAC? What impact will these changes have on your relationship with Parks Dept?**

Public Art Initiative will really involve P/R linking it to People Trail. Enhance user experience and tourist draw. Good way to use park land for art programming.

The sculpture loan program will be a key to this. Also looking at the possibility of permanent sculptures.

Very interested in Nashville to Columbus trail/make it an art experience.

The go to agency for public art. The first partnership is Hotel Indigo. New park facilities (parks) like a soccer field created – park dept. would go to CAAC for help to get sculptures for entrance.

Opening fundraising to other art agencies like City Band. Might help P/R – the ability to pass on to CAAC.

- 2. What facilities, improvements/equipment are lacking from parks system which prevents CAAC from fully utilizing the parks system?**

Roof over the amphitheater at Mill Race

Would use Mill Race more if we didn't have a flooding issue. The only place is Hodson Hill/north end of park.

Programming on the river – Issue of no access on the river (i.e. Chinese Dragon Boat Racing)

Portable Awning idea – Need research before next summer

Remodeling of pool entrance at Donner with art (ceramic murals)

- 3. What can the parks department do to increase awareness of and participation in programs and activities?**

Fun Guide has been a great move to combine with P/R and CAAC

Cultural calendar is a good resource that CAAC and P/R coordinate each year.



Idea of CAAC and P/R jointly funding someone to manage both organizations websites.

**4. What do you believe should be the major goals for parks department during the next 5 years?**

Trail between Columbus and Nashville – Public Art Initiative

Dog Park Project – Find an artist to design a piece of art for the fence.

Keep CAAC in mind with any new facilities that we include a piece of artwork in the plan.

New sport complexes being planned may be good possibility for artwork inside or outside.

Continue to collaborate on public art in the future.

**5. Anything else?**

N/A

## **Appendix J**

### **Action Plan Schedule**

**Note:**        **Projects listed without a dollar amount are included because the project was done previously and it is expected that it will need to be done again in the future.**

# Action Plan - Columbus Parks and Recreation Department

## Projects: 2007-2012

|                                                                            | 2007     | 2008     | 2009      | 2010     | 2011     | 2012 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|------|
| 1 Blackwell - field reconfiguration, parking lot expansion and irrigation, |          | \$75,000 | \$50,000  | \$50,000 | \$50,000 |      |
| 2 Blackwell - north parking lot seal and stripe                            |          |          |           |          |          |      |
| 3 Blackwell - west lot resurface                                           |          |          |           |          |          |      |
| 5 Blackwell - playground                                                   |          |          |           |          |          |      |
| 6 Blackwell - restroom renovation                                          |          |          |           |          |          |      |
| 7 Blackwell - Wigh building renovation                                     |          |          |           |          |          |      |
| 8 Blackwell - fencing                                                      |          | \$15,000 |           |          |          |      |
| 9 Blackwell - Press box                                                    |          |          |           |          |          |      |
| 10 Blackwell - irrigation - head replacement                               |          | \$10,000 |           |          |          |      |
| 11 Blackwell - landscaping                                                 |          | \$10,000 |           |          |          |      |
| 12 Blackwell - bleacher pads                                               |          | \$10,000 |           |          |          |      |
| 13 City Cemetery - columbarium                                             |          |          | \$200,000 |          |          |      |
| 14 City Cemetery - road overlay                                            |          |          |           | \$20,000 |          |      |
| 15 City Cemetery - fence                                                   |          |          |           |          | \$20,000 |      |
| 16 Clifty - Realign road and parking                                       |          | \$33,000 |           |          |          |      |
| 17 Clifty - Skate Park Repairs                                             | \$5,000  | \$5,000  | \$5,000   | \$5,000  | \$5,000  |      |
| 18 Clifty - Light Skate park                                               |          | \$12,500 |           |          |          |      |
| 19 Clifty - Light Fast pitch four plex                                     |          |          | \$280,000 |          |          |      |
| 20 Clifty - New maintenance building                                       |          | \$60,000 |           |          |          |      |
| 21 Clifty - Utility infrastructure improvements                            |          | \$20,000 | \$20,000  | \$20,000 |          |      |
| 22 Clifty - road drainage                                                  |          | \$5,000  |           |          |          |      |
| 23 Clifty - Paint and backfill around shelters                             |          |          |           | \$5,000  |          |      |
| 24 Clifty - Fast Pitch Irrigation                                          |          | \$40,000 |           |          |          |      |
| 25 Clifty - Fast Pitch restrooms                                           |          | \$50,000 |           |          |          |      |
| 26 Clifty - Line fence                                                     | \$10,000 |          |           |          |          |      |
| 27 Clifty - baseball field reconfiguration                                 |          |          |           |          |          |      |
| 28 Clifty - Basketball resurface                                           |          |          |           |          |          |      |
| 29 Clifty - volleyball fence                                               |          |          |           | \$8,000  |          |      |
| 30 Clifty - volleyball resurface                                           |          |          |           |          |          |      |
| 31 Clifty - playground                                                     |          |          |           | \$25,000 |          |      |
| 32 Clifty - restrooms                                                      |          |          |           | \$10,000 |          |      |
| 33 Clifty - crack sealing                                                  |          |          |           | \$5,000  |          |      |
| 34 Clifty - pave interior 4-plex                                           |          |          |           |          |          |      |
| 35 Clifty - baseball south 4 plex - fencing                                |          |          |           |          |          |      |
| 36 Clifty - Bleacher pads                                                  |          |          | \$20,000  | \$20,000 |          |      |
| 37 Clifty - Fast pitch irrigation                                          |          |          |           |          |          |      |
| 38 Clifty - fence fabric replacement                                       |          | \$40,000 | \$15,000  | \$15,000 | \$15,000 |      |
| 39 Clifty - Landscaping                                                    |          |          |           |          |          |      |
| 40 Clifty - fastpitch fencing                                              |          |          |           |          |          |      |
| 41 Clifty - Parking - east lot                                             |          |          |           |          |          |      |
| 42 Clifty - Parking - north lot                                            |          |          |           |          |          |      |
| 43 Clifty - Parking - south lot                                            |          |          |           |          |          |      |
| 44 Columbus Gymnastics Center - carpet                                     |          |          |           |          |          |      |
| 45 Columbus Gymnastics Center - vault pit                                  |          |          |           |          |          |      |

# **Action Plan - Columbus Parks and Recreation Department**

## **Projects: 2007-2012**

|                                                                | 2007     | 2008      | 2009      | 2010      | 2011      | 2012      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 46 Columbus Gymnastics Center - equipment                      |          |           | \$25,000  |           | \$25,000  |           |
| 47 Columbus Gymnastics Center - climbing wall                  |          | \$40,000  |           |           |           |           |
| 48 Commons - structural and curtain wall                       |          |           | \$100,000 |           | \$100,000 |           |
| 49 Commons - Performance & Performers' Spaces                  |          |           |           |           |           |           |
| 50 Commons - Replace Chillers and Cooling Tower                |          |           |           |           |           |           |
| 51 Commons - Replace Flooring                                  |          | \$190,000 | \$190,000 | \$250,000 |           |           |
| 52 Commons - Paint Interior                                    |          | \$40,000  |           |           |           |           |
| 53 Commons - Outdoor Lighting along Washington Street          |          |           | \$30,000  |           |           |           |
| 54 Commons - Playground Renovation                             |          |           | \$200,000 |           |           |           |
| 55 Donner Center - Ceiling tile replacement                    |          |           |           |           |           |           |
| 56 Donner Center window & door repair                          |          |           |           |           |           |           |
| 57 Donner Center restroom upgrade                              |          |           | \$35,000  | \$10,000  | \$10,000  |           |
| 58 Donner Center front office carpet                           |          |           |           |           |           |           |
| 59 Donner Center surge protection                              |          |           |           |           |           |           |
| 60 Donner Park curb replacement / walk installation            |          |           |           |           |           |           |
| 70 Donner Observation deck resurface                           |          | \$15,000  | \$15,000  | \$15,000  | \$15,000  | \$15,000  |
| 71 Donner Aquatics sand volleyball court                       |          |           |           | \$20,000  |           |           |
| 72 Donner Aquatics locker room floor and fixtures              |          | \$70,000  |           |           |           |           |
| 73 Donner Aquatics circulation pumps (3 pumps)                 |          | \$30,000  |           |           |           |           |
| 74 Donner Aquatics filters (10)                                |          |           | \$30,000  |           |           |           |
| 75 Donner Aquatics heaters (2)                                 |          |           |           | \$56,000  |           |           |
| 76 Donner Aquatics sand volleyball court                       |          |           |           |           |           |           |
| 77 Donner Aquatics surge protection                            |          |           |           |           |           |           |
| 78 Donner Aquatics Floats                                      |          |           |           |           |           |           |
| 79 Donner Aquatics Slide                                       |          |           | \$7,500   |           | \$7,500   |           |
| 80 Donner Aquatics Umbrellas                                   |          |           |           | \$30,000  |           |           |
| 81 Donner Aquatics grate reconstruction                        |          | \$5,000   | \$5,000   | \$5,000   | \$5,000   | \$5,000   |
| 91 Donner Aquatics pool deck                                   |          |           |           |           |           |           |
| 92 Donner garage rehab - environmental and exterior renovation |          |           |           |           |           |           |
| 93 Donner basketball court resurface                           |          | \$10,000  | \$75,000  | \$75,000  | \$75,000  | \$100,000 |
| 94 Donner Playground surface                                   |          |           |           |           |           | \$75,000  |
| 95 Donner - west parking lot seal                              |          | \$30,000  |           |           | \$18,000  |           |
| 96 Everroad - property survey                                  |          |           |           |           |           |           |
| 97 Everroad - development                                      |          |           |           |           |           |           |
| 98 East High School Pool - Window renovation                   |          |           |           | \$6,000   |           |           |
| 99 Greenbelt Building lease                                    |          | \$25,000  |           |           |           |           |
| 100 Greenbelt - clubhouse mechanical systems                   |          | \$30,000  | \$30,000  | \$30,000  |           |           |
| 101 Greenbelt / Par 3 Tee bed markers                          |          |           |           |           |           |           |
| 102 Greenbelt - clubhouse windows                              |          |           |           |           |           |           |
| 103 Greenbelt - clubhouse roof replacement                     | \$8,000  |           |           |           |           |           |
| 104 Greenbelt - siding repair                                  |          |           |           |           |           |           |
| 105 Greenbelt - fence replacement                              |          |           |           |           |           |           |
| 106 Greenbelt - path repair                                    |          |           |           |           |           |           |
| 107 Greenbelt - sign replacement                               | \$10,000 | \$10,000  | \$10,000  | \$10,000  | \$10,000  | \$10,000  |



| Action Plan - Columbus Parks and Recreation Department |                                                                       |          |          |          |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Projects: 2007-2012                                    |                                                                       |          |          |          |          | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 |
| 108                                                    | Greenbelt - parking lot                                               |          |          |          |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 109                                                    | Greenbelt - ceiling replacement                                       |          |          |          |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 110                                                    | Harrison Ridge Handball court                                         |          |          |          |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 111                                                    | Harrison Ridge Shelter                                                |          |          |          |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 112                                                    | Harrison Ridge Tennis courts resurface                                |          | \$25,000 |          |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 113                                                    | Harrison Ridge - 2 - 5 playground                                     |          | \$40,000 |          |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 114                                                    | IUPUC - Volleyball courts                                             |          |          |          |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 115                                                    | Lincoln - Hamilton Center water treatment                             |          |          |          |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 116                                                    | Lincoln - Hamilton Center Compressor replacement                      |          | \$30,000 | \$30,000 | \$30,000 |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 117                                                    | Lincoln - Hamilton Center Cedar Shake Roof Replacement - Main Rink    |          |          |          |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 118                                                    | North                                                                 |          |          |          |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 119                                                    | South                                                                 |          |          |          |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 120                                                    | East                                                                  | \$35,000 |          |          |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 121                                                    | West                                                                  |          | \$35,000 |          |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 122                                                    | Lincoln - Hamilton Center Cedar Shake Roof Replacement - warming room |          | \$40,000 |          |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 123                                                    | Lincoln - Hamilton Center Cedar Shake Roof Replacement - Small Rink   |          |          |          |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 124                                                    | North                                                                 |          |          |          |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 125                                                    | South                                                                 |          |          |          |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 126                                                    | East                                                                  |          | \$35,000 |          |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 127                                                    | West                                                                  |          | \$35,000 |          |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 128                                                    | Lincoln - Hamilton Center rubber Roof Replacement                     |          |          |          |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 129                                                    | Lincoln - Hamilton Center Compressor Replacement                      |          | \$30,000 |          |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 130                                                    | Lincoln - Hamilton Center energy management system                    |          |          |          |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 131                                                    | Lincoln - Hamilton Center circular drive                              |          | \$50,000 |          |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 132                                                    | Lincoln - Hamilton Center Front door replacement                      |          |          |          |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 133                                                    | Lincoln - Hamilton Center North door replacement                      |          |          |          |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 134                                                    | Lincoln - Hamilton Center partition replacement                       |          |          |          |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 135                                                    | Lincoln - Hamilton Center roof reinforcement                          |          | \$30,000 |          | \$20,000 |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 136                                                    | Lincoln - Hamilton Center chimney tuck pointing                       |          |          |          |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 137                                                    | Lincoln - Hamilton Center interior ceiling painting                   |          |          | \$50,000 |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 138                                                    | Lincoln - Hamilton Center Exterior Painting                           |          |          |          |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 139                                                    | Lincoln - Hamilton Center New Dasher Boards                           |          | \$75,000 |          |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 140                                                    | Lincoln - Hamilton Center New glass on small rink                     |          |          | \$25,000 |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 141                                                    | Lincoln - Hamilton Center Cooling Tower Replacement                   |          |          |          |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 142                                                    | Lincoln - Hamilton Center Heat Pump Replacement                       |          |          | \$52,000 |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 143                                                    | Lincoln - Hamilton Center Window Replacement                          |          |          |          |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 144                                                    | Lincoln - Basketball court resurface                                  |          | \$20,000 |          | \$30,000 |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 145                                                    | Lincoln - Tennis court fencing replacement                            |          |          |          |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 146                                                    | Lincoln - Tennis court resurface                                      |          |          |          |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 147                                                    | Lincoln - Diamond #6 fencing - outfield and line                      |          |          |          | \$20,000 |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 148                                                    | Lincoln - Diamond #6 lighting                                         |          |          |          |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 149                                                    | Lincoln - surge protection                                            |          |          |          |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 150                                                    | Lincoln - Batting cage netting                                        |          |          |          |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 151                                                    | Lincoln - Betting cage refurbishment                                  |          |          |          |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |

| Projects: 2007-2012                                                       | 2007     | 2008     | 2009     | 2010     | 2011     | 2012 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------|
| 108 Greenbelt - parking lot                                               |          |          |          |          |          |      |
| 109 Greenbelt - ceiling replacement                                       |          |          |          |          |          |      |
| 110 Harrison Ridge Handball court                                         |          |          |          |          |          |      |
| 111 Harrison Ridge Shelter                                                |          |          |          |          |          |      |
| 112 Harrison Ridge Tennis courts resurface                                |          | \$25,000 |          |          |          |      |
| 113 Harrison Ridge - 2 - 5 playground                                     |          | \$40,000 |          |          |          |      |
| 114 IUPUC - Volleyball courts                                             |          |          |          |          |          |      |
| 115 Lincoln - Hamilton Center water treatment                             |          |          |          |          |          |      |
| 116 Lincoln - Hamilton Center Compressor replacement                      |          | \$30,000 | \$30,000 | \$30,000 | \$30,000 |      |
| 117 Lincoln - Hamilton Center Cedar Shake Roof Replacement - Main Rink    |          |          |          |          |          |      |
| 118 North                                                                 |          |          |          |          |          |      |
| 119 South                                                                 |          |          |          |          |          |      |
| 120 East                                                                  | \$35,000 |          |          |          |          |      |
| 121 West                                                                  |          | \$35,000 |          |          |          |      |
| 122 Lincoln - Hamilton Center Cedar Shake Roof Replacement - warming room |          | \$40,000 |          |          |          |      |
| 123 Lincoln - Hamilton Center Cedar Shake Roof Replacement - Small Rink   |          |          |          |          |          |      |
| 124 North                                                                 |          |          |          |          |          |      |
| 125 South                                                                 |          |          |          |          |          |      |
| 126 East                                                                  |          | \$35,000 |          |          |          |      |
| 127 West                                                                  |          | \$35,000 |          |          |          |      |
| 128 Lincoln - Hamilton Center rubber Roof Replacement                     |          |          |          |          |          |      |
| 129 Lincoln - Hamilton Center Compressor Replacement                      |          | \$30,000 |          |          |          |      |
| 130 Lincoln - Hamilton Center energy management system                    |          |          |          |          |          |      |
| 131 Lincoln - Hamilton Center circular drive                              |          | \$50,000 |          |          |          |      |
| 132 Lincoln - Hamilton Center Front door replacement                      |          |          |          | \$20,000 |          |      |
| 133 Lincoln - Hamilton Center North door replacement                      |          |          |          |          |          |      |
| 134 Lincoln - Hamilton Center partition replacement                       |          |          |          |          |          |      |
| 135 Lincoln - Hamilton Center roof reinforcement                          |          | \$30,000 |          |          |          |      |
| 136 Lincoln - Hamilton Center chimney tuck pointing                       |          |          |          |          |          |      |
| 137 Lincoln - Hamilton Center interior ceiling painting                   |          |          | \$50,000 |          |          |      |
| 138 Lincoln - Hamilton Center Exterior Painting                           |          |          |          |          |          |      |
| 139 Lincoln - Hamilton Center New Dasher Boards                           |          | \$75,000 |          |          |          |      |
| 140 Lincoln - Hamilton Center New glass on small rink                     |          |          | \$25,000 |          |          |      |
| 141 Lincoln - Hamilton Center Cooling Tower Replacement                   |          |          |          |          |          |      |
| 142 Lincoln - Hamilton Center Heat Pump Replacement                       |          |          | \$52,000 |          |          |      |
| 143 Lincoln - Hamilton Center Window Replacement                          |          |          |          | \$30,000 |          |      |
| 144 Lincoln - Basketball court resurface                                  |          | \$20,000 |          |          |          |      |
| 145 Lincoln - Tennis court fencing replacement                            |          |          |          |          | \$15,000 |      |
| 146 Lincoln - Tennis court resurface                                      |          |          |          |          |          |      |
| 147 Lincoln - Diamond #6 fencing - outfield and line                      |          |          |          | \$20,000 |          |      |
| 148 Lincoln - Diamond #6 lighting                                         |          |          |          |          |          |      |
| 149 Lincoln - surge protection                                            |          |          |          |          |          |      |
| 150 Lincoln - Batting cage netting                                        |          |          |          |          |          |      |
| 151 Lincoln - Batting cage refurbishment                                  |          |          |          |          |          |      |

# Action Plan - Columbus Parks and Recreation Department

## Projects: 2007-2012

|                                                              | 2007     | 2008      | 2009     | 2010     | 2011     | 2012     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 152 Lincoln - Batting cage lease                             | \$26,000 |           |          |          |          |          |
| 153 Lincoln - Softball drainage                              |          |           |          |          |          |          |
| 154 Lincoln - sun shelters                                   |          | \$17,000  | \$7,000  | \$7,000  | \$7,000  | \$7,000  |
| 155 Lincoln - # 5 hill grading                               |          |           |          |          |          |          |
| 156 Lincoln - # 5 lighting                                   | \$25,000 |           |          |          |          |          |
| 157 Lincoln - Softball extend sod to fence along line fences | \$6,000  | \$6,000   | \$6,000  |          |          |          |
| 158 Lincoln - Softball landscaping                           |          |           |          |          |          |          |
| 159 Lincoln - 4-plex bldg awning                             |          |           |          |          |          |          |
| 160 Lincoln - storage bins                                   |          |           |          |          |          |          |
| 161 Lincoln - storage bldg.                                  |          | \$60,000  |          |          |          |          |
| 162 Lincoln - Playground surface                             |          |           |          |          |          |          |
| 163 Lincoln - shelter                                        |          |           | \$85,000 |          |          |          |
| 164 Lincoln - concrete repairs                               |          |           | \$25,000 |          |          | \$25,000 |
| 165 Lincoln - fence repairs                                  |          |           |          |          |          |          |
| 166 Lincoln - Landscaping inside 4 - plex                    |          | \$10,000  | \$15,000 | \$10,000 |          | \$10,000 |
| 167 Lincoln - queing for diamonds 5 & 6                      |          |           |          |          |          |          |
| 168 Lincoln - maintenance bullpen paving and fence           |          | \$35,000  |          |          |          |          |
| 169 Lincoln - tennis court fence and practice wall           |          |           |          |          |          |          |
| 170 Lincoln - parking overlay                                |          | \$30,000  | \$40,000 |          |          |          |
| 171 Mead Village - shelter repair and painting               |          |           |          |          |          |          |
| 172 Mead Village - basketball court                          |          |           |          |          |          |          |
| 173 Mead Village - paved area                                |          |           |          |          |          |          |
| 174 Mill Race - Amphitheater Loading Dock                    |          |           |          |          |          |          |
| 175 Mill Race - Amphitheater mound seating                   |          | \$10,000  |          |          |          |          |
| 176 Mill Race - Amphitheater stage cover                     |          | \$80,000  |          |          |          |          |
| 177 Mill Race - Amphitheater access Road                     |          | \$20,000  |          |          |          |          |
| 178 Mill Race - Amphitheater staging area                    |          |           |          |          |          |          |
| 179 Mill Race - Elevator Replacement                         | \$10,000 | \$300,000 |          |          |          |          |
| 180 Mill Race - restroom steel repair                        |          |           |          |          |          |          |
| 181 Mill Race - paint horseshoe bldg.                        |          |           |          |          |          |          |
| 182 Mill Race - north pond seating                           |          | \$1,500   |          |          | \$10,000 |          |
| 183 Mill Race - road & walkway drainage                      |          |           | \$3,500  | \$3,500  |          |          |
| 184 Mill Race - Parking resurfacing                          | \$15,000 |           |          |          |          |          |
| 185 Mill Race - retaining wall repair                        |          |           |          |          |          |          |
| 186 Mill Race - Front Archway                                |          |           |          |          |          |          |
| 187 Morningside - Shelter painting                           |          | \$2,500   |          |          |          |          |
| 188 Morningside - playground                                 |          |           |          |          |          |          |
| 189 McCullough's Run Park Development                        |          |           | \$25,000 | \$25,000 | \$25,000 | \$25,000 |
| 190 Netting                                                  | \$15,000 | \$25,000  |          |          |          |          |
| 191 Noblitt - development                                    |          |           |          |          |          |          |
| 192 Noblitt - road drainage                                  |          | \$5,000   | \$25,000 |          |          |          |
| 193 Northbrook - development                                 |          |           |          |          |          |          |
| 194 Par - 3 - replace cedar shingles on clubhouse            |          |           |          | \$50,000 | \$50,000 | \$25,000 |
| 195 Par - 3 - repair siding                                  |          |           |          |          |          |          |



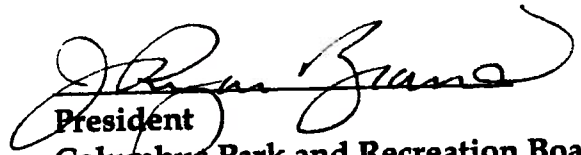
| Action Plan - Columbus Parks and Recreation Department |                                                                    |           |             |             |             |           |           |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|--|
| Projects: 2007-2012                                    |                                                                    | 2007      | 2008        | 2009        | 2010        | 2011      | 2012      |  |
| 196                                                    | Par - 3 - fence replacement                                        |           | \$20,000    |             |             |           |           |  |
| 197                                                    | Par - 3 - replace cedar shingles on maintenance building & gutters |           |             |             |             |           |           |  |
| 198                                                    | Par - 3 - Sign installation                                        |           |             |             |             |           |           |  |
| 199                                                    | Par - 3 - step replacement                                         |           |             |             |             |           |           |  |
| 200                                                    | Par - 3 - pond renovation                                          |           |             |             | \$15,000    | \$15,000  |           |  |
| 201                                                    | Par - 3 - parking lot seal                                         |           |             |             |             | \$2,000   |           |  |
| 202                                                    | Par - 3 - cart storage                                             |           | \$60,000    |             |             | \$150,000 |           |  |
| 203                                                    | Par - 3 - irrigation                                               |           |             |             |             |           |           |  |
| 204                                                    | Park Operations - install diesel tanks for off road equipment      |           |             |             |             |           |           |  |
| 205                                                    | Park Operations - screen fence around staging area                 |           |             |             |             |           |           |  |
| 206                                                    | Park Operations - surge protection                                 |           | \$20,000    |             |             |           |           |  |
| 207                                                    | Park Operations - sidewalk                                         |           | \$17,000    |             |             |           |           |  |
| 208                                                    | Park Operations - security camera                                  |           | \$18,000    |             |             |           |           |  |
| 209                                                    | Park Operations - storage bins                                     |           |             |             |             |           |           |  |
| 210                                                    | Park Operations - trash enclosure                                  |           | \$6,000     |             |             |           |           |  |
| 211                                                    | Park Operations - cold storage                                     |           |             | \$200,000   |             |           |           |  |
| 212                                                    | Park Operations - Overhead door                                    | \$21,000  |             |             |             |           |           |  |
| 213                                                    | Park Operations - concrete curbing                                 |           | \$10,500    |             |             |           |           |  |
| 214                                                    | Park Operations - irrigation system                                |           |             |             |             |           |           |  |
| 215                                                    | Park Operations - paving of rear lot                               |           |             |             |             |           |           |  |
| 216                                                    | Park Operations - fuel tanks                                       |           |             |             |             |           |           |  |
| 217                                                    | Pence - repair / replace split rail fence and chain link fence     |           |             |             |             |           |           |  |
| 218                                                    | Pence - repair / paint shelter                                     |           |             | \$2,500     |             |           |           |  |
| 219                                                    | People Trail repair                                                | \$40,000  | \$40,000    | \$45,000    | \$45,000    | \$45,000  | \$45,000  |  |
| 220                                                    | 19 th Street                                                       |           |             |             |             |           |           |  |
| 221                                                    | People Trail development                                           |           |             |             |             |           |           |  |
| 222                                                    | Richards Tennis Court Resurface                                    |           | \$125,000   | \$50,000    | \$50,000    | \$50,000  | \$50,000  |  |
| 223                                                    | Richards Tennis Court fencing replacement                          |           |             |             | \$20,000    | \$15,000  |           |  |
| 224                                                    | Senior Center - Roof                                               |           |             |             |             |           |           |  |
| 225                                                    | Senior Center - Building                                           |           |             |             |             |           |           |  |
| 226                                                    | Senior Center - Grounds                                            |           |             |             |             |           |           |  |
| 227                                                    | Signage                                                            |           |             |             |             |           |           |  |
| 228                                                    | Sealing and striping - parking lots                                | \$10,000  | \$10,000    | \$10,000    | \$10,000    | \$10,000  | \$10,000  |  |
| 229                                                    | Stream bank armament                                               |           | \$50,000    | \$50,000    | \$50,000    | \$50,000  | \$50,000  |  |
| 230                                                    | Tree installation                                                  |           | \$20,000    | \$20,000    | \$20,000    | \$20,000  | \$20,000  |  |
| Project Annual Totals                                  |                                                                    | \$251,000 | \$2,366,000 | \$2,128,500 | \$1,175,500 | \$874,500 | \$472,000 |  |


**Resolution**

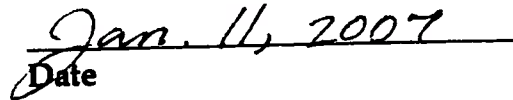
## Resolution

Be it resolved that the Columbus Parks and Recreation Board adopts this Draft 2007 - 2011 Columbus Park and Recreation Master Plan Update on the 11th day of January, 2006.

Be it resolved that the Columbus Park and Recreation Board may revise and amend the adopted master plan at any time the Columbus Park and Recreation Board may deem necessary.

  
President  
Columbus Park and Recreation Board

  
Secretary  
Columbus Parks and Recreation Board

  
Date

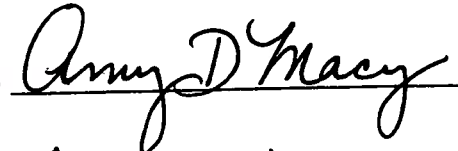
## **504 Compliance**

**ASSURANCE OF COMPLIANCE  
SECTION 504  
OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973**

The Cal. Parks & Recreation Dept (Applicant) has received and read the guidelines for compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 issued by the United State Department of the Interior and will comply with these guidelines and the ACT.

SIGNATURE   
APPLICANT PRESIDENT

J. RYAN BRAND  
(President's printed name)

SIGNATURE 

Amy D. Macy  
(Secretary's printed name)

DATE January 11, 2007

April 9, 2007

Mr. Brian Russell, Park Board President  
Columbus Parks and Recreation Board  
P.O. Box 858  
Columbus, IN 47202-0858

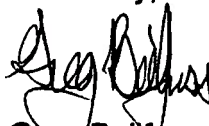
Dear Mr. Russell,

We have completed the final review of the 2007 Columbus 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. It meets the Department of Natural Resources' minimum requirements for local planning. Your agency will be eligible to apply for grants through the Year 2011. To apply for grants in 2012, a new five-year master plan draft must be submitted by January 15, 2012.

We strongly support your planning efforts and encourage your participation in the grant programs administered by the Division of Outdoor Recreation. It is highly recommended that you immediately contact our grants section staff as your first step in your grant application process. By contacting them now, they can help guide you through the process and facilitate your application. Please contact Mr. Bob Bronson, our grants section chief at (317) 232-4075 or at [bbronson@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:bbronson@dnr.IN.gov).

If you require further information regarding planning, please do not hesitate to contact Greg Beilfuss, State and Community Outdoor Recreation Planner at (317) 232-4071 or [gbeilfuss@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:gbeilfuss@dnr.IN.gov).

Sincerely,



Greg Beilfuss  
State and Community Outdoor Recreation Planner  
402 W. Washington, Room W271  
Indianapolis, IN 46204